Salt

June 2017

The Art & Soul of Wilmington

Summer Delights

100 Days of Cape Fear Summer

A Home Well-Traveled

First in Flight

BRIZO®

The Articulating Kitchen Faucet represents the next level of culinary innovation by Brizo. An articulating arm offers a larger range of movement than a traditional pull-down faucet – letting you perfectly position the faucet for any task at hand.

Shop Local

...We'll Remember Your Name!

212 S. Kerr Avenue • Wilmington, NC 28403 • 910-399-4802

Visit our showroom online at www.hubbardkitchenandbath.com

KITCHEN • BATH
HUBBARD
LIGHTING SHOWROOM

417 Bradley Creek Point Drive • $3,295,000

Located in Bradley Creek Point at the end of a secluded gated lane, this magnificent coastal gem overlooks Bradley Creek with views of the ICW, Masonboro Island and the Atlantic Ocean.

VANCE YOUNG
Broker/REALTOR®
Direct: 910.232.8850

TOP PRODUCER
INTRACOASTAL REALTY

VANCE YOUNG
www.VANCEYOUNG.com

Intracoastal
REALTY CORPORATION
Experience the Exceptional

Alexander Koonce

910•509•1949 | cell: 910•233•7225 | 800•533•1840
www.alexanderkoonce.com

Intracoastal Realty Corporation
Experience the Exceptional

TOP PRODUCER
Intracoastal Realty

Great New Price

7000 West Creeks Edge Drive — *Cove Point*

This lovely spacious home offers an open flowing floor plan with a grand 2 story foyer, 10 foot ceilings throughout the first floor and chestnut floors in all formal areas. The chef's kitchen offers all top of the line stainless appliances, granite counters, and custom cherry cabinets, and 2 walk-in pantries. The first floor master suite, which opens to the pool and spa, includes a large bedroom, oversized custom designed closet/dressing room, and a bath that is truly an amazing spa experience. The second floor is perfect for either a growing family or guest suites and office, with an open playroom, 3 large bedrooms, 2 big baths, a walk-in cedar closet, and a huge walk-in finished attic. The sunroom boasts a slate floor, raised hearth fireplace with stacked stone surround, and open views of the beautifully landscaped back yard and pool. The back yard is your own secluded private oasis with pool, spa, terraced patios, and a professionally designed putting green all surrounded by lush, mature palms. **$999,950**

Great New Price

8 Latimer Street — *Wrightsville Beach*

Classic investment property in the heart of Wrightsville Beach with views of the sound. This vintage cottage offers 2 units, (each with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath), off-street parking, and about 100 ft. in either direction to beach access or sound access. Both units have great rental history. Keep the top unit for your island getaway and just rent out the bottom unit to help cover your expenses. **$599,950**

Under Contract

SALT GRASS Marsh Oaks

MUNGO HOMES

Salt Grass at Marsh Oaks

616 Belhaven Drive
4 bedrooms | 3 full baths | 2,178 square feet
$343,023

627 Belhaven Drive
4 bedrooms | 3 full baths | 2,417 square feet
$381,209

557 Bayfield Drive
5 bedrooms | 3.5 baths | 3,296 square feet
$428,360

Marsh Oaks

Water & Marsh Front Lots in Marsh Oaks

Isn't it time to love where you live? Enjoy a privileged view of wide open spaces and nature in your backyard. Call today for the best selection of prime, water and marsh-front lots with exceptional new pricing! Located in the very sought after neighborhood of Marsh Oaks! Gorgeous community with award winning amenities that includes clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, playground and common areas. Every sunset will remind you of how much you love your best investment. **Homesites from $250,000 - $435,000, call for details.**

EXPECT ROYAL TREATMENT
www.alexanderkoonce.com

1900 Eastwood Road • Suite 38 Lumina Station • Wilmington, NC 28403
zander@alexanderkoonce.com

Send a kid to college

Launch a new business

FIRST BANK

DREAM IT. DO IT. CONTEST.

Buy a car

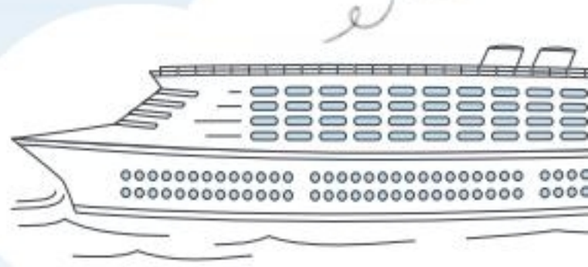
First Bank is an independent community bank on a mission to make the impossible, possible. Tell us your dream today—it could win the funding it needs to become a reality.

Prizes Up To

$25,000!

Buy your dream home

Take a trip



To enter, share your dream at a First Bank branch in your area, or online at

LOCALFIRSTBANK.COM/DREAMITDOIT

* See Official Rules for complete details, available at your local First Bank branch and at www.localfirstbank.com/dreamitdoit.

Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC.

Knees Renewed
Life resumed
Intense pain limited Sally's ability to enjoy life to the fullest. After a double knee replacement at NHRMC's award-winning orthopedic hospital, she's now twice as active, and infinitely grateful.
Visit nhrmc.org/orthopedics or call 910.667.8110 to learn about joint replacement surgery options.
New Hanover Regional Medical Center
Orthopedic Hospital

Salt
MAGAZINE

VOLUME 5, NO. 5

4022 Market Street, Suite 202
Wilmington, NC 28403
910.833.7159

Jim Dodson, Editor
jim@thepilot.com

Andie Stuart Rose, Art Director
andie@thepilot.com

Isabel Zermani, Senior Editor
isabel@saltmagazinenc.com

Lauren Coffey, Graphic Designer

Alyssa Rocherolle, Graphic Designer

CONTRIBUTORS

Ash Alder, Harry Blair, Susan Campbell, Wiley Cash, Clyde Edgerton, Jason Frye, Nan Graham, Virginia Holman, Mark Holmberg, Ross Howell Jr., Sara King, D. G. Martin, Jim Moriarty, Mary Novitsky, Dana Sachs, Stephen E. Smith, Astrid Stellanova

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Rick Ricozzi, Bill Ritenour, Andrew Sherman, Mark Steelman

David Woronoff, Publisher

ADVERTISING SALES

Ginny Trigg, Sales Director
910.691.8293 · ginny@thepilot.com

Elise Mullaney, Sales Manager
910.409.5502 · elise@saltmagazinenc.com

Rhonda Jacobs, Advertising Representative
910.617.7575 · rhonda@saltmagazinenc.com

Alyssa Rocherolle, Advertising Graphic Designer
910.693.2508 · alyssamagazines@gmail.com

CIRCULATION

Darlene Stark, Circulation/Distribution Director
910.693.2488

©Copyright 2017. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.
Salt *Magazine is published by* The Pilot LLC

CRAIGE & FOX PLLC

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

Business Law | Civil Litigation | Elder Law | Estate Administration & Planning
Family & Juvenile Law | Legal Guardianship | Municipal Law | Real Property Law

910-815-0085 Phone | 910-815-1095 Fax
701 Market Street | Wilmington, NC 28401 | www.CraigeandFox.com

June 2017

Departments

11 Simple Life
By Jim Dodson

14 SaltWorks

17 Sketchbook
By Isabel Zermani

18 Omnivorous Reader
By D.G. Martin

23 Writer's Life
By Wiley Cash

29 Stagelife
By Nicholas Gray

31 Lunch With a Friend
By Dana Sachs

37 Serial Eater
By Jason Frye

39 The Pleasures of Life Dept.
By Hope Cusick

43 Birdwatch
By Susan Campbell

44 Excursions
By Virginia Holman

69 Calendar

75 Port City People

79 Accidental Astrologer
By Astrid Stellanova

80 Papadaddy's Mindfield
By Clyde Edgerton

Features

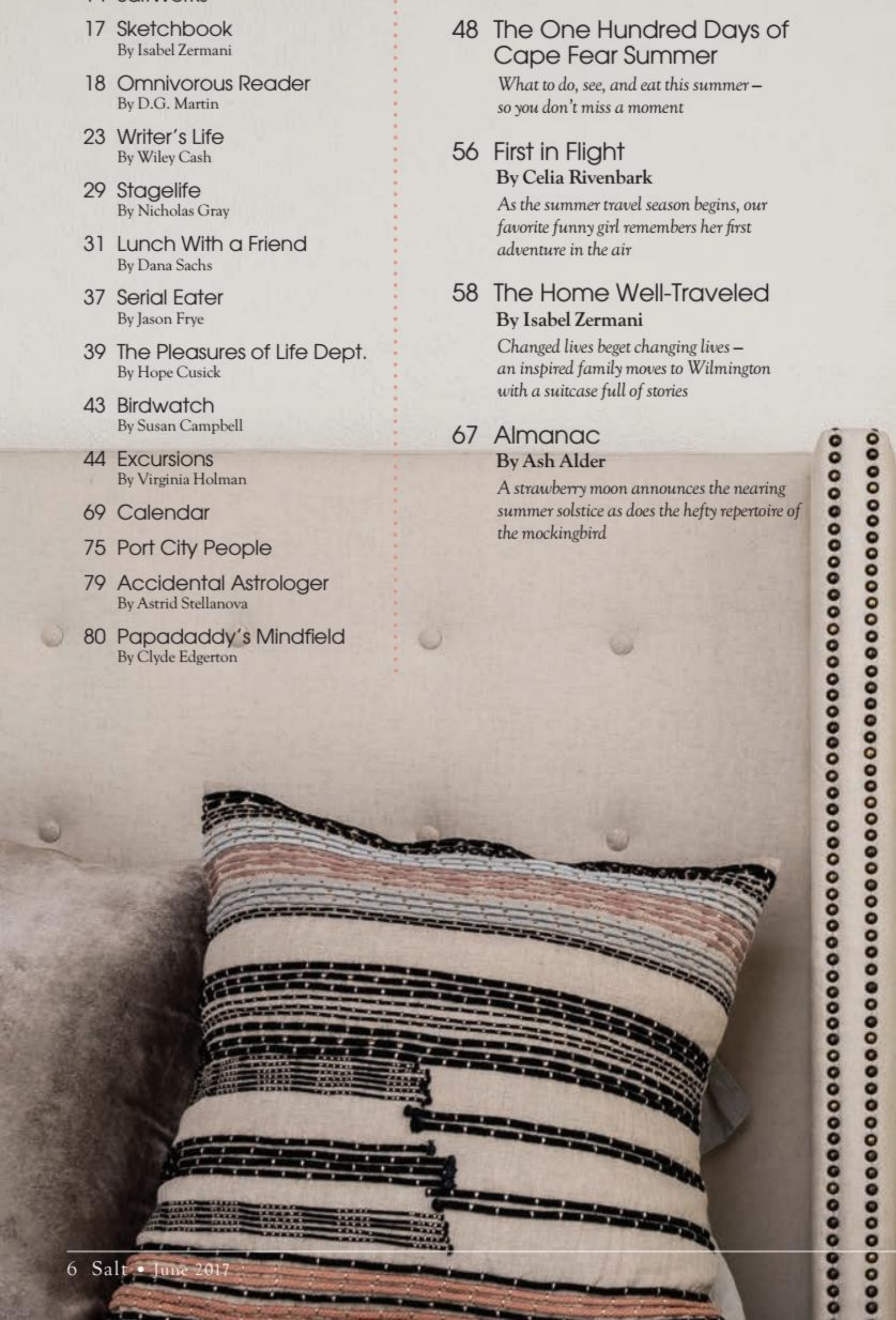
47 Reclamation Project
Poetry by Sarah Edwards

48 The One Hundred Days of Cape Fear Summer
What to do, see, and eat this summer – so you don't miss a moment

56 First in Flight
By Celia Rivenbark
As the summer travel season begins, our favorite funny girl remembers her first adventure in the air

58 The Home Well-Traveled
By Isabel Zermani
Changed lives beget changing lives – an inspired family moves to Wilmington with a suitcase full of stories

67 Almanac
By Ash Alder
A strawberry moon announces the nearing summer solstice as does the hefty repertoire of the mockingbird



Cover Illustration
by Harry Blair

Photograph this page
by Rick Ricozzi

nest
Fine Gifts and Interiors

Wilmington's *Premier* location
for
interior design, home decor
& accessories

furniture ▪ upholstery ▪ carpet & rugs ▪ wallpaper ▪ lighting ▪ artwork ▪ fabrics
wall coverings ▪ window treatments ▪ custom orders ▪ interior design services

Time to refresh *your* nest

Located in The Forum | 1125-T Military Cutoff | (910) 256-6378 | www.nestfinegifts.com | like us on facebook

theArtWorks™

Like the Nautilus, a Symbol of Expansion & Renewal, theArtWorks™ Will Grow Logarithmically.

Gallery • Artist Studios • Event Venue

910.352.7077
200 Willard Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
theArtWorksWilmington@gmail.com
www.theArtWorks.co

Resident Artists:

aScuttlebutt
Christopher "Topher" Alexander
Robert "Bob" Anderson
Emily Andres
Mary Welch Austin
Susan V. Buteau
Todd Carignan
Jason Clark
Jeanette Cloud
Diana Coltenback
Alice Corl
Sue Cunningham
Verna D'Alto
Lily Duveau
Justine Ferreri
Denise Fillyan-Fletcher
Lynne Finlay
Mark Gansor
Donna Goodman
Amy Graham
JeanMarie Griffin
Gregory Hall
Joanna Hancock
Barton Hatcher
Sarah Horak
Cathy Johnson
Janet Johnson
Brian Kerrigan
Susan Kranyik
Erinn L. Foshe
Erika Lawrence
Ian Leatherwood
Bill Marr
Karen Masterson
Bonnie Mattson
Charlie McGee
Clinton Meyer
Kirstin O'Malley
Lynn Olsen
Judy Pawinski
Chris Pfund
Pat Pinter
Lauren Rogers
Emily "Rosie" Rosati
Janet B. Sessoms
Perry Smith
Tryg Thoresen
Mary Trowbridge
Mary Vogelsong
John Wilson
Elena Wright

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH BREWERY

NORTH CAROLINA

LUNCH, BRUNCH, DINNER,
LIVE MUSIC AND SPECIAL EVENTS

ALL NORTH CAROLINA,
ALL THE TIME

SERVING FRESH, LOCAL SEAFOOD AND CRAFT BEER
IN THE BREWPUB AND BEER GARDEN EVERY DAY!

6201 OLEANDER DRIVE, WILMINGTON, NC | 910.256.4938 | WBBEER.COM | 11AM – 11PM | @wbbeers

J. Chris Huff

REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY

Ethics. Integrity. Hard Work.

Skill that's tested time and time again. Putting our core values at the top of what we do, and performing at these high standards for our clients. That, to us, is HIGH PERFORMANCE LAW™.

Attorney and partner J. Chris Huff can provide you with legal counsel for real estate closings, construction loans, refinancing, title searches and almost any other residential or commercial real estate matter.

HUTCHENS
LAW FIRM

HIGH PERFORMANCE LAW™

910.509.7480

7029 Wrightsville Avenue, Wilmington

Read more about Hutchens Law Firm's areas of practice at **HutchensLawFirm.com**

We have locations throughout the Carolinas:

Cameron | Columbia | Charlotte | Fayetteville | Southern Pines | Wilmington

What's Enough?

Timeless advice from a modern sage

By Jim Dodson

A few weeks ago I read in *The New Yorker* about a group of Silicon Valley billionaires who've built luxury retreats in some of the remotest parts of the planet, safe houses designed to allow their owners to survive a global catastrophe — and stocked with enough good white wine and military hardware to hold out indefinitely.

A short time later, I read about a second group of young Silicon Valley billionaires funding a top-secret scheme to bioengineer a so-called "God Pill" that can cure everything from cancer to flat feet and make human mortality as obsolete as your trusty old Osborne computer.

According to *Newsweek* magazine, this latter group of "visionaries" includes Peter Thiel, the billionaire co-founder of PayPal, who is making plans to live for at least 120 years. Dmitry Itskov, the "godfather" of the Russian Internet, says his goal is to live to 10,000 years of age, while Larry Ellison, co-founder of Oracle, finds the notion of accepting mortality "incomprehensible." Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google, meantime, simply hopes to someday "cure death."

As *Newsweek* notes, "The human quest for immortality is both ancient and littered with catastrophic failures. Around 200 B.C., the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, accidentally killed himself trying to live forever, poisoning himself by eating supposedly mortality-preventing mercury pills."

Centuries later, the answer to eternal life appears no closer at hand. "In 1492, Pope Innocent VIII died after blood transfusions from three healthy boys whose youth he believed he could absorb. A little closer to modern times, in 1868 America, Kentucky politician Leonard Jones ran for the U.S. presidency on the platform that he'd achieved immortality through prayer and fasting — and could give his secrets for cheating death to the public. Later that year, Jones died of pneumonia."

For better or worse, as the ancients of every spiritual tradition remind us, it is life's bittersweet impermanence — and one's perspective on the matter — that determines whether every day is regarded as a gift to be savored or a good reason to pack up and head for the hills.

As I read about Silicon Valley's lavish End Time retreats and quest to make human mortality irrelevant, in any case, I couldn't help but think about the summer I realized I was mortal and probably wouldn't be around forever.

It was June of 1962 and school was just out. Third grade was in my rearview mirror and I had both a new neighborhood plus a shiny new Black Racer bike upon which to go adventuring.

My new neighborhood gang was buzzing about the bomb shelter "creepy Mr. Freeman" had reportedly built beneath a shed in his backyard in the raw new subdivision south of the city. The Russians were coming, and bomb shelters were all the rage on TV and in magazines. About this same time I watched an episode of *The Twilight Zone* that tells the story of neighbors at a dinner party when word comes that a nuclear missile has been launched at America. The host and his family flee to their bomb shelter only to have their terrified neighbors batter down the door — just as the word comes that the report was a mistake. But panic has brought its own devastation to the neighborhood.

I freely admit becoming obsessed with Mr. Freeman's bomb shelter. My brother and I were sons of an itinerate newspaperman, after all, who'd witnessed Klan rallies and floods during our family odyssey through several newspapers across the deep South before coming home to Greensboro for good. There'd been stops in Wilmington and Florence, South Carolina, and our dad had even owned his own paper in Mississippi for a while. But the misfortunes and tragedies we'd witnessed or heard about in the context of newspaper reporting always belonged to someone else.

To my over-stimulated 9-year-old brain, the prospect of a sneaky, thermonuclear attack by the Russians was in a class of disaster by itself. It made the rickety wooden desks we practiced huddling beneath during civil defense drills at school seem laughably insufficient compared to the allure of an Oreo-filled, TV-equipped bomb shelter in one's own backyard.

I even asked my dad if we could build one, helpfully providing a preliminary sketch of what ours might look like. My bomb shelter was one classy affair, resembling a cross between the Flintstones' cave and a Jules Verne wondrous *Nautilus* submarine.

My old man smiled when I showed him my bomb shelter design, which also depicted a wasteland where our new subdivision previously existed — a cindered moonscape inspired by photographs of Hiroshima I'd seen in an Associated Press photo book of the Second World War.

"How many people can fit in your bomb shelter?" he casually wondered.

"Just the four of us and Herky," I said. Herky was my dog, short for "Hercules," named for the mythological Greek strongman featured in cheesy Steve Reeves movies.

"I see. Well, Sport, would you really want to live in a world like that? How are you going to feel knowing all your friends and schoolmates who didn't have bomb shelters were left up top where everything is gone — all the birds and trees and animals you seem to love so much?"

This was a point I'd not considered.

"Do you think the world will end anytime soon?" I asked him.

"In some fashion or another, the world is always ending for someone somewhere," he calmly explained.

He even had an answer to the nuclear appeal of creepy Mr. Freeman's bomb shelter.

"You can't run away from the world," he said. "You can only try to improve it. Rather than bury yourself in the backyard, I suggest you grow up and help create a better world. You have a brief time on this Earth. The trick is to use it wisely — and to learn what's enough."

Decades later, when we talked about this funny moment, my philosopher-

RAINEY WALLACE

910.524.8794

rwallace@intracoastalrealty.com

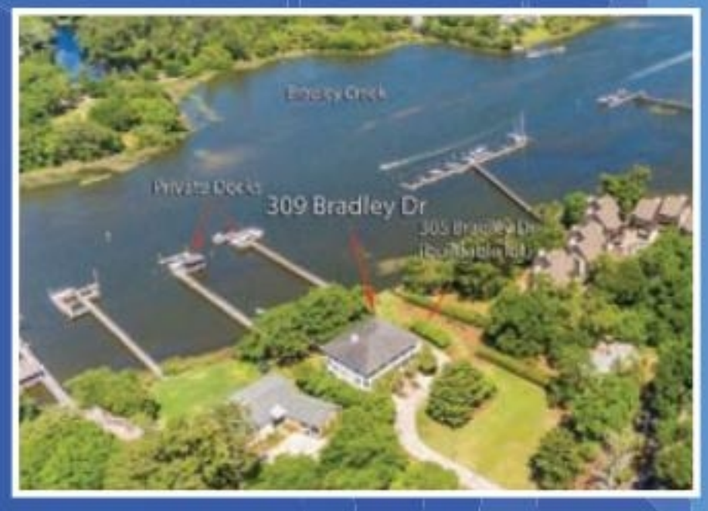
Intracoastal
REALTY CORPORATION

Experience the Exceptional

LESLIE HALES

910.508.8620

lhales@intracoastalrealty.com



NEW LISTING! • 309 BRADLEY DRIVE • $2,950,000

Twin Oaks by the Sea. One of a kind waterfront property on Bradley Creek. Two piers each with a lift and multiple boat slips on deep water. An extra, buildable lot is included.

father remembered it almost exactly the way I did.

We happened to be sitting in a pub on the rainy Lancashire coast of England, sharing a pint following a rained-off round of golf. Though you wouldn't have guessed it, my dad was dying of cancer, and this was our final golf trip together, a long-talked-about trip to see the places where he fell in love with golf as an Air Force sergeant just prior to D-Day.

Among other things on this trip, I'd learned that my father had been through his own versions of an Apocalypse — first a tragic plane crash that killed dozens of people including children in the village where he was stationed; and a second time when his dream of owning his own newspaper in Mississippi went up in smoke after his silent partner cleaned out the company bank accounts and headed for parts unknown. That same week, unimaginably, my mother suffered a late-term miscarriage and my dad's only sister died in a car wreck outside Washington, D.C. Talk about the End of the World.

"How on Earth does one survive a week like that?" I asked him over my warm beer.

I remember how he smiled. "Because I've learned that it's not what you get from this life that really matters — but what you give and leave behind. Knowing what's enough is the key to a meaningful life."

My dad was 79 years old that rainy afternoon in England. I could suddenly see why he was the perfect fellow to moderate the men's Sunday morning discussion group at First Lutheran Church in Greensboro for more that two decades.

I was 42 years old with two small children back home in Maine and already in grief over his approaching absence from my life.

And I remember something else he said with a wry smile, draining his beer.

"There are no endings, Sport, only beginnings. Make each day count."

Reading about the wealthy Silicon Valley billionaires who crave more time and seek to live forever simply reminded me of these lessons I learned very early in life, from that faraway bomb shelter summer and the mouth of a modern sage. Later in life, I actually took to calling my wise old father, an adman with a poet's heart, "Opti the Mystic."

All these years later, I think about how blessed I was to have such a funny, philosophical father and his essential message about knowing "What's enough?"

Mine really is a pretty simple life, it turns out. I even jotted down a few things that at the end of the day (or even the world) are more than enough for me.

Enough for me is an old house I love where every creak or groan underfoot sounds like a sigh of contentment.

Long walks around Paris — or just the neighborhood at dawn or evening — with my wife, Wendy, is the stuff of everyday magic.

Ditto a Japanese garden that will probably take at least a decade more to complete, new friends who come to supper on weekends, old friends who get in touch, Sunday evening phone calls from our four grown children, good books, rainy Sundays, our screened porch, and the night skies over our terrace.

For the record, I'd like to write five or six more books of my own and maybe hobble off someday to find the world's most sacred places, purely for spiritual kicks.

Also, like a worried 9-year-old boy I remember being, I wish my dog Mulligan could live forever — or at least until I'm ready to push on to God knows where.

Point being, I guess I don't fear the end of this world, a gift Opti the Mystic gave me long ago.

"This is why we are in the world," advised the Sufi mystic Bawa. "Within your heart is a space smaller even than an atom. There, dear ones, God has placed 18,000 universes."

A good reason to make every day count.

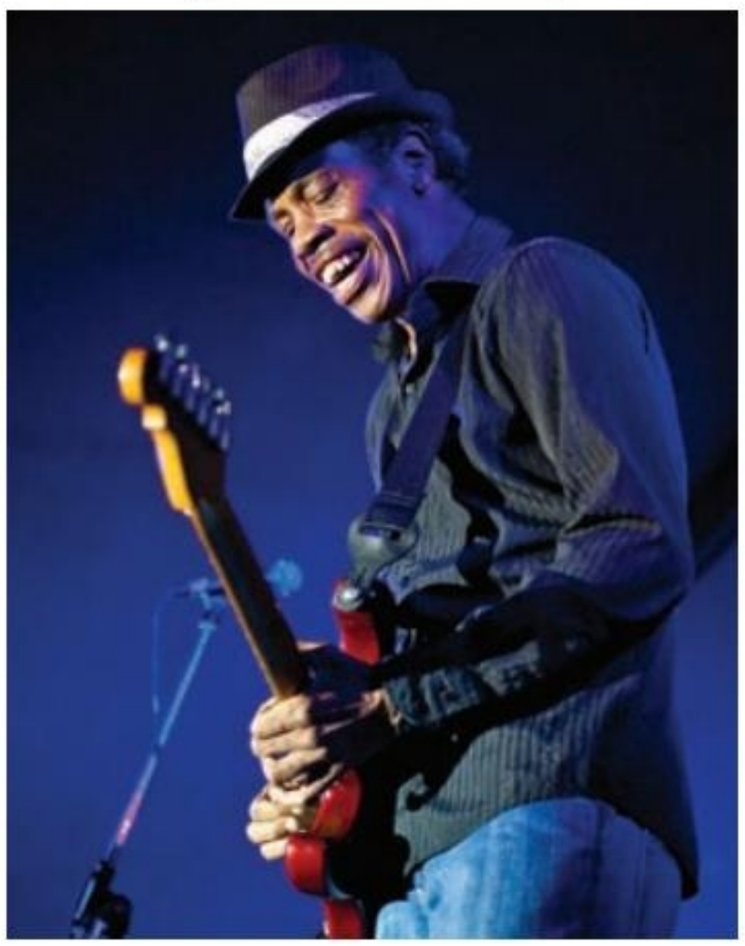
Contact Editor Jim Dodson at jim@thepilot.com. Read more about Opti the Mystic and Mulligan in The Range Bucket List, *Dodson's new book, available everywhere.*

sunbrella™
sunbrella® is a registered trademark of Glen Raven, Inc.
Classic Designs
OUTDOOR LIVING
910-798-5071 | 5018 OLEANDER DRIVE | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SaltWorks

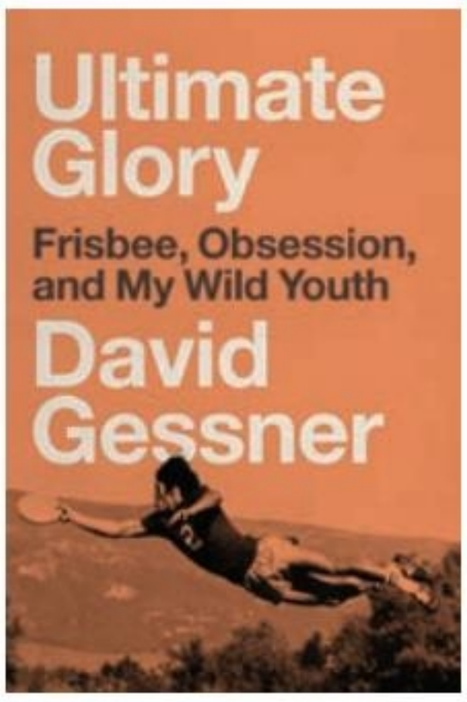
Blues Note

Count Basie once said, "There are a lot of ways you can treat the blues, but it will still be the blues." We prefer to *treat* the blues *with* the blues. There just ain't nothing like the blues to make you feel some kind of way or articulate that particular ache. We all get it, and we can't all make magic with it, but this summer we can hear some of the greats translate that most human of ailments to sounds for the soul at the annual Cape Fear Blues Festival. A weekend of shows features James Armstrong on Saturday night (June 24) at the Rusty Nail and a Friday night sunset blues cruise on the river with Randy McQuay (June 23). Join in during a blues workshop or an all-day jam. Tickets and info: (910) 350-8822 or www.capefearblues.org/festival.



Ultimate Book Launch

No stranger to odd sports, local *New York Times* best-selling author David Gessner, a New Englander sometimes seen skiing the beach, has a new book out, *Ultimate Glory*. What sport could hold such promise, such acclaim, so much tie-dye? Ultimate frisbee. Hold your laughter, Ultimate has become a real sport since Gessner's early days on the field as a sweatband-clad youth amid equally devoted friends and rivals. His only goal: "to win Nationals and go down in Ultimate history as one of the greatest athletes no one has ever heard of." Whether you are part of Wilmington's fervent Ultimate scene (or want to be), or simply enjoy the thrilling ride of good sports writing or want to know the true identity of that man who skis the beach, you can. Meet the author and hear him spin a tale or two at the *Ultimate Glory* launch party on June 6 at 7 p.m., Wrightsville Beach Brewery, 6201 Oleander Drive. Feeling inspired? There's a pickup game of Ultimate frisbee on Mondays at 6 p.m. at Wrightsville Beach Access 36 near the water tower.



Funny Girl

Wilmington's own laugh-riot Celia Rivenbark is not new to stage adaptation. TheaterNOW has produced plays from her *New York Times* best-selling works (*Rude Bitches Make Me Tired*, *You Don't Sweat Much For a Fat Girl*, etc.) before and they are back again with "The Best of Celia." She can do no wrong in our eyes, it's all funny. And finally, after bouncing from the typecast ingenue to various vapid "mother" roles, our local actresses can get into something with some teeth. Celia's biting humor and raucous social commentary on everything from air travel (read her latest on page 56) to fashion (*Stop Dressing Your Six-Year-Old like a Skank*). Starting June 2, the show runs through July 22, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. Tickets: $40 (including three-course dinner, you'll have to sip between jokes!) or $18-22 (show only). TheatreNOW, 19 South Tenth St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 399-3now or www.theatrewilmington.com.

Art Camp for Grownups

While the Museum School at CAM can't offer you the PB & J lunches, canoe races, or romance at a summer mixer with the neighboring camp, it can offer you a grown-up version of art camp that pairs as perfectly with summer as any of those. Beginners are encouraged to take "Painting 101: Creative Camp for Adults" with Kirah Van Sickle (June 12 - 16, 2 – 5 p.m.), but more experienced painting students should try "Coffee, Tea or Turp: Exploring the Still life in Oil" with Sharon Wozniak-Spencer (June 26 – 30, 2 – 5 p.m.). Cost: $160 (members), $195 (non-members).

Still, doodlers, dabblers and but-I-can't-draw-ers should check out "Super Beginners Drawing" with Kevin Dunn for a monthlong, weekly class for newbies (June 8–29, Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.). Let this summer make you fearless! If you've ever had an inkling of doing something artistic, but don't know where to start, sign up for one of these crash courses with local artists. Cost: $90 (members), $120 (non-members). To register, call (910) 395-5999 or visit www.cameronartmuseum.com/museumschool.

Cookout for a Crisis

This community cares. A group of locals joined together to form a nonprofit "Humanity Now" to aid the refugee crisis in Greece. *Salt* columnist Dana Sachs has written about the volunteers aiding the crisis and how we can provide essentials for the thousands of people left stranded. The group travels to Greece every few months and spends all funds raised on relief aid. Pop by their inaugural event, "Boats, Tents, Nowhere to go: A Benefit for Refugees in Greece" on Sunday, June 4, between 4 – 6 p.m. at Queensboro Shirt Factory, 1207 South 13th St. Info: Visit www.humanity-now.org or contact their organizers directly at info@humanity-now.org.

We're So Excited

And we just can't hide it. The Pointer Sisters, hitmakers of early 1980s songs "Fire," "He's So Shy," "Automatic" and, of course, "So Excited" are coming to town. While the original trio of sisters is not intact, daughters and granddaughters Issa and Sadako have stepped into the spotlight to join Ruth and Anita in recent years, maintaining the Pointer family legacy of song and dance stardom. Don't miss this lively show with those unmistakable vocals. This group has earned their star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and now they take a walk on the Wilson Center stage on June 25. Tickets: $36–105. 703 North Third St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 362-7999 or www.capefearstage.com

In the Key of Yippee

We maintain our strong position that barbershop harmony is impossible not to enjoy. There's probably some science, some musical theory, to explain the pleasure of voices in thirds and fifths undulating up and down the scales, but we prefer just to sit back and enjoy it. Plus, those porkpie hats are too cute. Have you seen a large group of men around here all dressed alike and singing good ole tunes? No? Well, then buy yourself a ticket for "Silhouettes," the 29th annual show of the Cape Fear Chordsmen. UNCW Kenyan Auditorium, 601 South College Road. Tickets: $15 (Adults), $10 (K–12). Call (910) 541-1256 or visit CapeFearChordsmen.com.

Birds & Bees

And butterflies and snakes and turtles, Oh my! What do all these creatures have in common? Native to North Carolina, one may see all of these on a casual walk in the woods, but how much do we really know about them? Staff at Halyburton Park features a series of programs on each of these creatures to engage more fully with our natural world. Take an early bird hike June 6 at 9 a.m. or watch a snake and turtle feeding June 7 at 4 p.m. Parents, take your babies (ages 2–5) to a "little explorers" program about butterflies June 15 or 16 at 10 a.m. Kick back with an evening program all about bees on June 21 at 6:30 p.m. Admission ranges from free to $5. Call (910) 341-0075 or visit www.halyburtonpark.com to pre-register. Halyburton Park, 4099 South 17th St., Wilmington.

Cook Your (Pork) Butt Off

You've seen *Top Chef*, you've seen *Iron Chef*, but have you seen a local BBQ pork butt competition? We think the competition will be fierce and the results delicious. Seeing as North Carolina has more pigs than people, pork butt is something Carolinians know a thing or two about. Held in the backyard of antebellum house museum Poplar Grove, the cook-off will feature more than just B, B, and Q; arts and crafts vendors, live music, and truck and tractors will raise 'em up at this hoedown. No coolers or pets, please! Cape Fear BBQ Festival hosted by the Cape Fear Wildlife Foundation. Admission: $5. Poplar Grove Plantation, 10200 U.S. Highway 17 N, Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Info: capefearbbqfestival.com.

RIVERPLACE

Love Where You Live!

Wilmington and Beaches Convention & Visitors Bureau

Selling Quickly, Don't Miss This Opportunity

RETAIL SHOPS | **TERRACE RESTAURANT** | **ROOFTOP POOL** | **FITNESS CENTER**

How you live is as important as where you live. Riverplace will feature unparalleled amenities and luxury features while putting you in the heart of Historic Downtown.

You can shop for the latest trends, dine in Wilmington's newest and finest restaurants, catch an upcoming theater production or simply stay home and enjoy the view of the majestic Cape Fear River.

Riverplace will be home only to a lucky few. Visit RIVERPLACEWILMINGTON.COM for a virtual tour showcasing the floors, views, and layouts available.

COMPLETE LATE 2018!

RIVERPLACE

Hopkins & Associates

Sales Office | 228 N. Front Street

RIVERPLACEWILMINGTON.COM

For more information call Jimmy Hopkins at 910.431.4887 or Steven Smiley at 910.742.0877.

Intracoastal REALTY CORPORATION *Experience the Exceptional*

east west partners

What the Turtle Knows

A second look at a spirit animal of underrated bravery

By Isabel Zermani

Yesterday I saw a turtle from far away. I've seen many turtles on the way to our offices, a little turn off Market Street that takes you to an oasis of green. I've stopped to give them a lift across the road — from forest to pondside — or just smiled to myself at seeing something natural and a little wild before a day at the office. I've seen them swimming in the pond or shading themselves under the shrubbery, as big as a helmet, as small as a child's hand.

This turtle, the one I saw yesterday, was traveling much farther than any of the turtles I'd seen before. He had even crossed the railroad tracks between the pond and the office and was now out in the open. This is not exactly a safe place for a turtle to be. The long driveway is nearly white with crushed gravel, and the nearby grass fields are trimmed short. For an acre in every direction, he's exposed.

Not blessed with speed or agility, the turtle inches along as best he can, making him an easy target for predators and snide remarks. From my distant window, I see his shape, a dark half moon, with legs appearing to strain out and tuck in with each step. Out, in, out, in. I easily track his progress, but not his bravery. I find myself questioning this turtle's choices: *Why are you so far out? What if your timing is bad? Where are you even going? For just another patch of trees across the driveway and field? Why leave the pond? You'll just end up turning around and going back and then what?*

The turtle inches along. No cars yet. Then the turtle stops in place. A shadow passes over him. It's a large bird flying overhead. The turtle is hiding. But against the crushed gravel driveway, the visibility of this tasty turtle morsel is laughable. *Why didn't you just stay at the pond?* I shout in my mind. He's stopped in the dead center of the driveway. Surely, this is it for the turtle and he will rue the day. His shell may seal into protective armor to thwart a bird, but it's no match for a truck tire.

The shadow passes. The bird is gone. The turtle resumes his hero's journey.

My husband and I have decided to move to Santa Fe for his job, but also, the next adventure. I realize my anxious, nagging questions for the turtle leaving his pond are somewhat personally revealing. I am excited for the next chapter, but, like any risk, leaving this happy hamlet raises some doubts.

I've also seen a rabbit in this field before. A little brown bunny nibbling amid the clover flowers with glassy button eyes that watched me watching him with trepidation. I didn't move. Then he sprang into a little brown sprint, and a few bounces of white tail and he was gone.

Watching this turtle from the office balcony, it occurs to me that the "Tortoise and the Hare" fable does not accurately consider the nature of these two animals. The hare is portrayed as an arrogant, lazy, pompous Joe Camel-type who could easily win the race if he applied himself; he just doesn't. In a 1935 Disney *Silly Symphony* short, the hare takes a nap and then can't catch up to the slow-plodding joy-kill tortoise.

The rabbits I've met are easily spooked, challenge no one, but can draw blood with frantic scratchings to escape a hug. Hares, their larger cousins, still do not seem to possess the hubris endowed to them in this fable, but do grow mad or "harebrained" in captivity. There is a Native American myth about the fearful rabbit, that their fear exacerbates itself, snowballing into actual harm like a self-fulfilling prophecy; a fable I find more relevant.

Turtles, on the other hand — as I'm witnessing — are terribly brave and charge forward in the face of many adversaries. Some of them can take your finger off, but first, they must summon the mettle to let their enemy get well within snapping distance. They don't spring away at the slightest twitch.

If the race is a race against one's self, the turtle wins.

Back at the office, the turtle has crossed the white driveway and made it into the grass. He tucks himself against a low landscaping wall and rests for a minute in the shade before starting off again toward the magnolia tree, the field beyond, and the unexplored crop of trees behind the iron workshop. *Where is he going? What will happen?* That's for the turtle to know. But fortune always favors the bold.

Goodbye, Wilmington!

Isabel Zermani, our senior editor, prefers the storied life.

ILLUSTRATION BY ISABEL ZERMANI

Southern Living

IDEAHOUSE

BALD HEAD ISLAND 2017

TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR TOURS STARTING JUNE 16

Make plans now to visit the *Southern Living* 2017 Idea House, located on beautiful Bald Head Island, N.C.

The Idea House, which is designed to provide creative design and décor inspiration for visitors, will open for tours beginning June 16, 2017 and will be prominently featured in the August issue of *Southern Living* magazine.

The home will remain open throughout the summer and on select weekends in the fall, with a portion of all tour ticket sales benefitting the nonprofit Old Baldy Foundation, which works to preserve North Carolina's oldest lighthouse.

Along with developer Bald Head Island Limited and builder Whitney Blair Custom Homes, the talented design partners chosen by *Southern Living* for the project include residential designer Eric Moser of Moser Design Group in Beaufort, S.C., and interior designer Lindsey Coral Harper, who is originally from Cartersville, Ga., and whose studio is based in New York City.

Learn more about the 2017 *Southern Living* Idea House on Bald Head Island and reserve your tour tickets today at www.IdeaHouseBHI.com.

WB
WHITNEY BLAIR
CUSTOM HOMES

LINDSEY CORAL HARPER

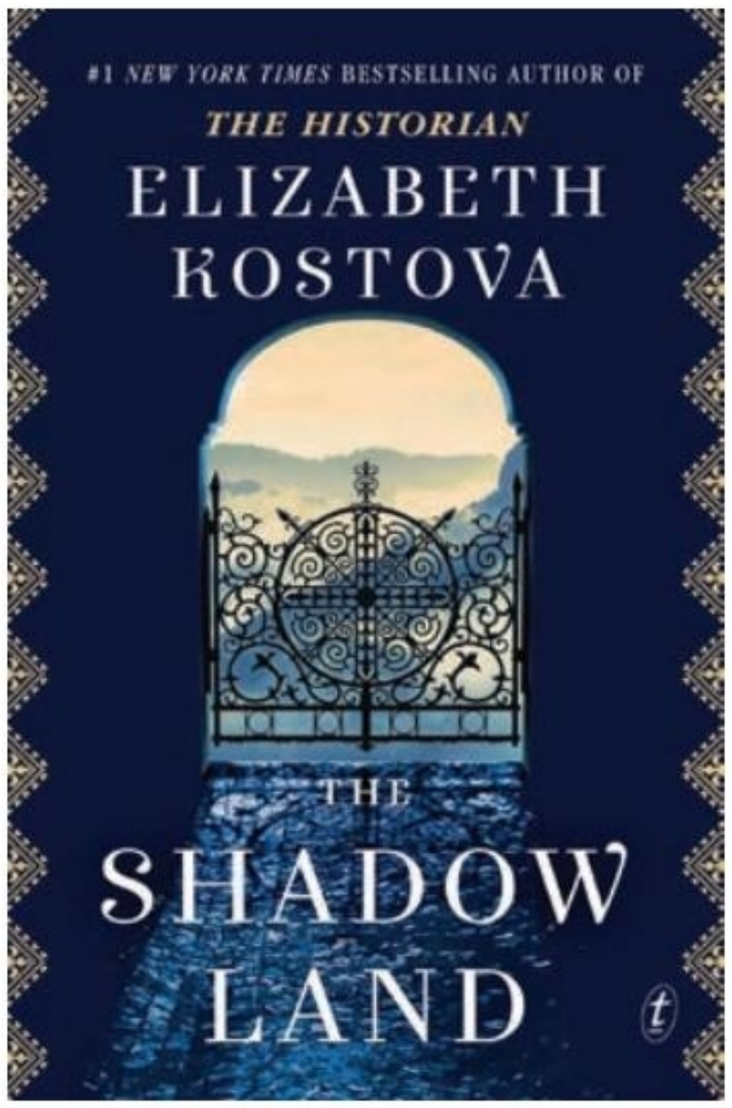
MDG

BALD HEAD ISLAND

BALD HEAD ISLAND LIMITED
REAL ESTATE SALES

Back to Bulgaria

A compelling and mysterious journey



By D.G. Martin

Asheville author

Elizabeth Kostova will always be remembered for her 2005 novel, *The Historian*, that became the fastest-selling hardback debut novel in U.S. history and the first ever to become No. 1 on *The New York Times* best-seller list in its first week on sale. Her achievement was especially noteworthy because her book was literary fiction, a genre that does not often produce massive sales results.

The plot of The *Historian* followed a search by scholars for the origins of Vlad the Impaler, better known as Count Dracula. After research in libraries and archives in Amsterdam and Istanbul, the book's main characters travel throughout Eastern Europe in search of Dracula's tomb. When they find it in a Bulgarian monastery, it's empty. Is Dracula still alive? Will they find him? Are there other vampires? On these questions, Kostova built her compelling and successful mystery.

Kostova's second book, *The Swan Thieves*, was set in the world of art and made the *Times* bestseller list for 20 weeks in 2010.

In her third and most-recent book, *The Shadow Land*, she takes her readers back to Bulgaria, but this time there are no vampires. The villains are modern and very realistic.

Its main character is a young North Carolina mountain woman, Alexandra Boyd. On her first day in the country she meets a small Bulgarian family group — an older woman and two men, one in a wheelchair and the other a tall man of particular note.

Showing off her lyrical prowess, Kostova writes, "She saw that the tall man was dressed in a black vest and an immaculate white shirt, too warm and formal for the day. His trousers were also too shiny, his black shoes too highly polished. His thick dark hair, with its sheen of silver, was brushed firmly back from his forehead. A strong profile. Up close he looked younger than she'd first thought him. He was frowning, his face flushed, glance sharp. It was hard for her to tell whether he was nearer to thirty-eight or fifty-five. She realized through her fatigue that he might be one of the handsomest men she'd ever observed, broad-shouldered and dignified under his somehow out-of-date clothes, his nose long and elegant, the cheekbones flowing up toward narrow bright eyes when he turned slightly in her direction. Fine grooves radiated from the edges of his mouth, as if he had a different face that he reserved for smiling. She saw that he was too old for her after all. His hand hung at his side, only a few feet from one of hers. She felt an actual twinge of desire, and took a step away."

He tells her his group is on its way to a beautiful monastery and suggests she consider visiting it, too. After they leave, notwithstanding Alexandra's obvious fascination with him, it will be several hundred pages before she sees the man again, and we understand why he was described so completely. When his group departs in a taxi, Alexandra discovers she has a satchel that belongs to the Bulgarians.

A young taxi driver called Bobby befriends her as she seeks to find the satchel's owners. In it is a wooden urn, containing ashes and inscribed with the name Stoyan Lazarov. She and Bobby report the incident to the local police, who seem suspiciously interested, but who don't take possession of the urn. Instead, they give Alexandra an address where Lazarov lived.

Bobby suggests they rush to the monastery and return the urn to the Bulgarians, but when they get there the group is gone. Ready to continue their search, they find themselves locked in a room. Alexandra thinks, "nothing in her previous experience had prepared her for the feeling of being suddenly locked in a monastic room with a stranger five thousand miles from the Blue Ridge Mountains, holding an urn containing the ashes of another stranger. In addition to being tired and afraid, she was suddenly a thief, a vagrant and a prisoner."

Though Alexandra and Bobby escape from the monastery, they cannot escape a growing awareness that they are being followed and their possession of the urn has put them in danger. The next day they go to the address the police provided. The house is empty, but photos and papers inside confirm the own-

ers of the urn had, indeed, lived there. A neighbor sends them to another address in a different part of Bulgaria but, before going, they adopt a stray dog that would come to play a major role in one of the concluding scenes.

Kostova introduces other people, including an older, wealthy businessman-turned-politician named Kurilkov, known as "The Bear" who, running on a promise of "non-corruption," is seeking to win the nation's next election. There are growing and inexplicable dangers: vandalized cars, threats, murder and kidnapping. The urn's secret and its dangerous value become the spine on which Kostova builds the book's surprising and violent resolution.

On that same spine she attaches another story, that of the man whose ashes are in the urn. Stoyan Lazarov, a talented violinist, lover of Vivaldi, devoted husband and father, ran afoul of Bulgaria's brutal Communist dictatorship following World War II. He was confined for many years in a torturous labor camp where work conditions and weather almost killed him, destroying his health and his prospects for a fulfilling musical career.

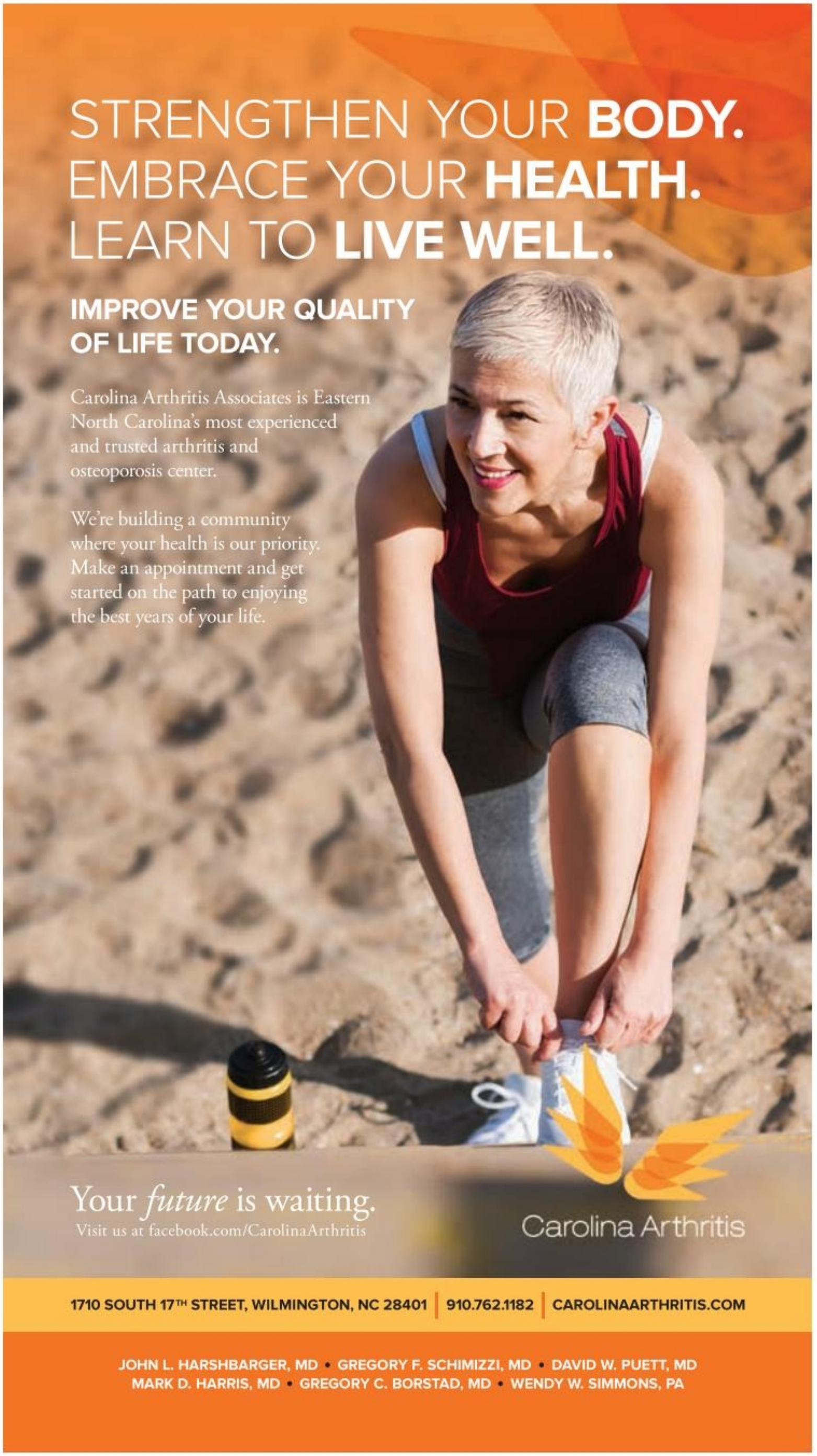
At the work camp, Lazarov met two men, one a friend and fellow inmate, and the other a guard who becomes a heated enemy. Both characters play a major part in the book's dramatic conclusion. Kostova confesses that *The Shadow Land* is "very much a book about political repression — and suppression — and I'm glad to be bringing it out at this exact political moment."

Her unforgiving description of the oppression Lazarov suffered is based on factual events. It is a disturbing reminder of the horrors of the Soviet methods of dealing with any failure to toe the Communist line.

Why has Kostova set another book in Bulgaria? Explaining her fascination, she writes about her first visit to "this mysterious country, hidden for so long behind the Iron Curtain," and that she felt, "I had somehow come home."

Kostova's poetic portrayal of Bulgaria's cities and villages, landscapes and people will make readers want to see for themselves the place she loves and describes so well. Another beloved North Carolina mountain author, Ron Rash, affirms the book's importance. "In this brilliant work, what appears at first a minor mystery quickly becomes emblematic of a whole country's hidden history. Lyrical and compelling, *The Shadow Land* proves a profound meditation on how evil is inflicted, endured, and through courage and compassion, defeated. Elizabeth Kostova's third novel clearly establishes her as one of America's finest writers."

D.G. Martin hosts North Carolina Bookwatch, *which airs Sundays at noon and Thursdays at 5 p.m. on UNC-TV.*


STRENGTHEN YOUR BODY.
EMBRACE YOUR HEALTH.
LEARN TO LIVE WELL.
IMPROVE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE TODAY.
Carolina Arthritis Associates is Eastern North Carolina's most experienced and trusted arthritis and osteoporosis center.
We're building a community where your health is our priority. Make an appointment and get started on the path to enjoying the best years of your life.
Your future is waiting.
Visit us at facebook.com/CarolinaArthritis
Carolina Arthritis
1710 SOUTH 17TH STREET, WILMINGTON, NC 28401 | 910.762.1182 | CAROLINAARTHRITIS.COM
JOHN L. HARSHBARGER, MD • GREGORY F. SCHIMIZZI, MD • DAVID W. PUETT, MD
MARK D. HARRIS, MD • GREGORY C. BORSTAD, MD • WENDY W. SIMMONS, PA

SPECIAL SAVINGS GOING ON NOW

ETHAN ALLEN®

WILMINGTON 818 SOUTH COLLEGE ROAD 910.799.5533

Ask a designer or visit ethanallen.com for details. Sale going on for a limited time. ©2017 Ethan Allen Global, Inc.

gathered

a curated design studio

3304-A Wrightsville Ave.
910.769.7318

Gifts & Jewelry	Home Accessories
Vintage Rugs	Children's Gifts
Textiles	Furniture & Lighting
Original Art Work	Interior Design

@gatheredgroup

Trespassing on Fertile Ground

Writing a book requires a curious spirit, a rental car and potential bail money

By Wiley Cash

On two separate occasions, my career as a novelist has nearly resulted in my being charged with breaking and entering. The first instance occurred at my elementary school. When I was 35 years old.

In June 2013, I was invited back to my high school in Gastonia, North Carolina, to receive an alumni award that was to be given during the school's graduation ceremony. After flying down on Friday and settling in at the hotel, I woke up early on Saturday morning with a little time to kill, and I thought I'd drive my rental car over to Robinson Elementary, where I had gone to school as a child. The baseball field behind the school serves as the model for the ball field in the opening scene of *This Dark Road to Mercy*, a novel whose final edits I was then in the middle of completing. I wanted to see the ball field again and make certain that I had gotten it "right" on the page. I wanted to know that my memory had done it justice.

I followed the sidewalk to the back of the building, where a playground sat, the old baseball field resting at the bottom of the hill. I stood there, picturing my characters, two young sisters, playing on the ball field. Once I was certain that I had imprinted the scene upon my mind, I made my way back to the front of the school. That is when I passed the gymnasium. At that moment, the exact smell of the gymnasium came back to me, a scent I had not smelled in almost 25 years: fresh carpet, new paint, well-used basketballs, and something else that I wasn't able to place. I couldn't resist my curiosity in wondering whether or not the gym still smelled the same. I checked the door. It was unlocked. I opened it and stepped inside.

I have two bits of news to report: First, the gymnasium at Robinson Elementary has smelled the exact same for almost 25 years. Second, Robinson Elementary's security alarm is really loud.

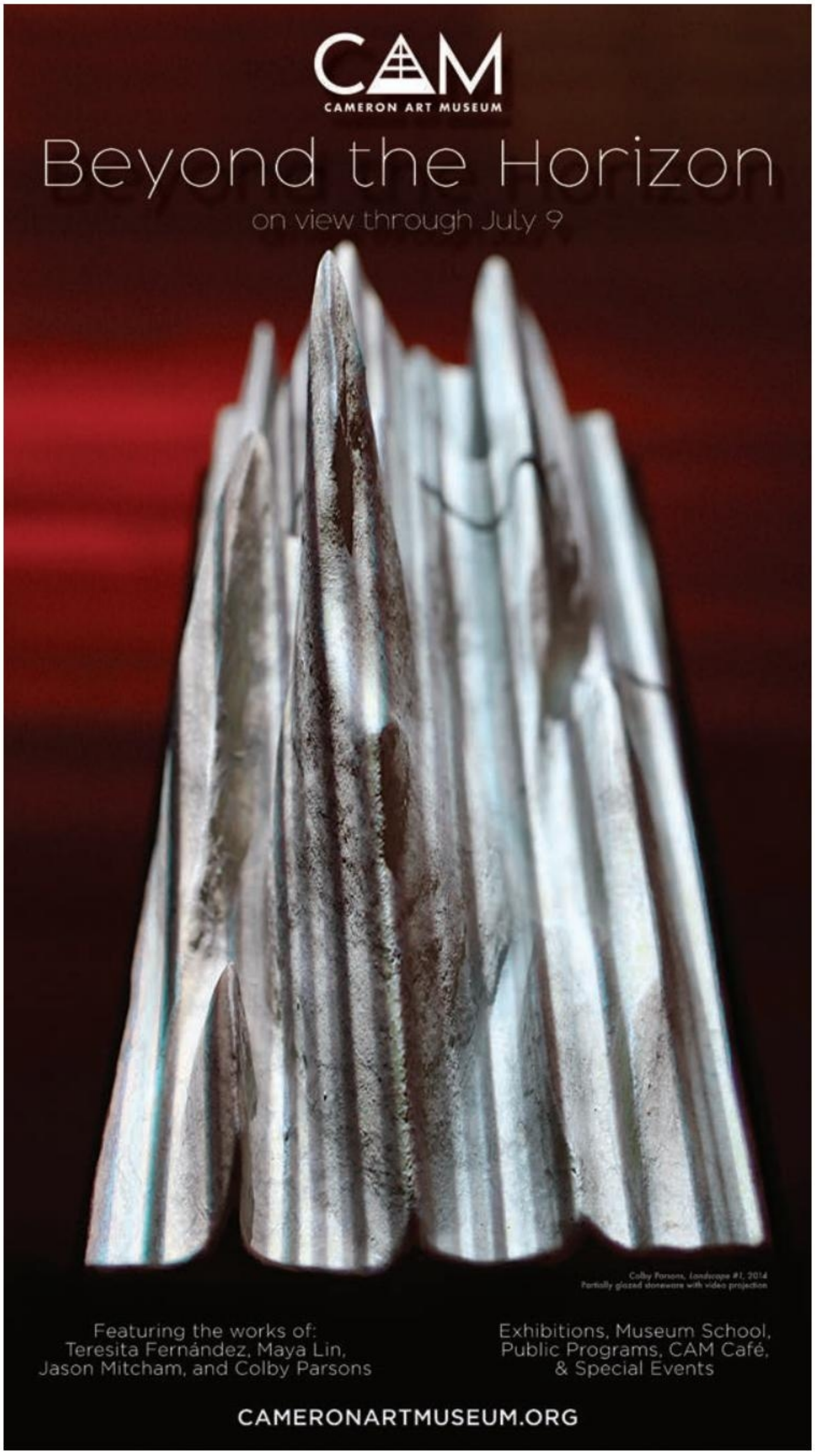
I slammed the door and stood there for a moment, and I'm not going to lie: I considered fleeing. Before I continue, let me tell you a little about my rental car. It was a souped-up, turquoise Camaro. The guy at the rental place had been excited when he told me about the car, and I didn't have the heart to tell him that it wasn't quite my style. Now, I pictured myself in my suit and tie, burning rubber in a turquoise Camaro as I peeled out of my old elementary school's parking lot. I did the only thing I could think to do: I pulled out my cellphone and called 911 on myself. The conversation went something like this: *No, I don't work for Robinson Elementary. No, I don't have a child who goes here. No, I'm from out of town. But I'm a writer, and I wrote about Robinson in a novel that will be out next year. I have to let you go. The police are here.*

A similar line of questioning occurred during my parking lot police interrogation. As soon as I was released my wife called. "Is that a siren?" she asked. I gave the only answer I could give. "I set off the alarm at my elementary school." Apparently, my wife is used to this type of behavior because all she said was, "I'll talk to you later."

The second time my career as a novelist nearly resulted in a rap sheet for breaking and entering occurred last spring, just west of Gastonia in the small town of Bessemer City, where much of my forthcoming novel *The Last Ballad* is set. The novel, which is based on true events, tells the story of a young woman who is swept up in a violent mill strike during the summer of 1929. Her name was Ella May Wiggins, and she worked at a mill in Bessemer City called American Mill No. 2. After a little research, I was able to locate the crumbling mill: It had been sold several times over the intervening decades, and, from where I sat parked along the road in front of the old mill, it appeared abandoned.

I got out of the car, a Subaru Forester — more inconspicuous and better suited for exploration than the Camaro — and approached the gate, assum-

ILLUSTRATION BY ROMEY PETITE



ing it would be locked, but there was no lock, and when I tried to open the gate it opened easily. I climbed back into my car, drove through the open gate, and parked in front of the mill.

For the next half hour I took pictures outside the mill, wondering where Ella had entered it, wondering how I would capture it on the page. It was painted a fading white, but I knew from old photographs that the red brick beneath had once been exposed. I also knew that Ella had worked as a spinner, but from outside the mill, I couldn't imagine where the spinning room would have been located. I considered trying the doors to see if any of them were unlocked. I even considered climbing up the ramp and trying to gain entry to the doors in the loading area. But the place was so quiet and felt so undisturbed that something gave me pause. The mill felt haunted, whether by Ella's presence or my own imagining, I could not tell. I decided to snap one more photo of the mill before getting back into my car and heading for Asheville, where I was scheduled to give a reading that evening.

And that's when I saw him: a scarecrow of a man standing on the loading dock about 100 yards from me. I lowered my camera, feeling as if I'd just been caught stealing secrets. The man wore blue jeans and a button-down shirt, a baseball hat pulled low over his eyes. His face was obscured by shadow, but he appeared to have a mustache and to be wearing thick glasses. I lowered my camera, and I stared at him. He stared back at me.

My car was parked between us, and I considered sprinting to it and getting behind the wheel and stepping on the gas for Asheville. But instead I approached the man where he stood. I didn't say a word until I was within 10 feet or so of where he loomed above me from his perch on the loading dock.

"Hello," I said. "My name's Wiley Cash, and I'm a writer, and I'm writing about a woman who worked at this mill in 1929. I was just taking a few pictures for research."

Silence.

"Her name was Ella May Wiggins," I said. "She was shot and killed during the Loray Mill strike."

More silence.

"Have you ever heard of her?"

He raised his eyes, looked out toward the road where the gate remained open from my illegal entry. He stared at my Subaru, and I suddenly wished I'd been driving the Camaro. Finally, he looked at me. I wondered if he would go inside and call the police, or if he'd disappear and return with some kind of weapon and take the law into his own hands.

"Well," he said, "I reckon you'd better come inside and have a look around."

His name was Walter, and he was 67 years

Unique blend of urban, commercial, And residential Lifestyle.

CALL TO RESERVE YOUR FUTURE!

NOFO LOFTS @ 1101 NORTH 4TH STREET

TOP PRODUCER
INTRACOASTAL REALTY

JEFF HOVIS
Broker/REALTOR®
(910) 512.2205
JHovis@IntracoastalRealty.com

Intracoastal
REALTY CORPORATION
Experience the Exceptional

HOME SEARCH APP: App.IntracoastalRealty.com/JHovis

www.JHovis.IntracoastalRealty.com

dunejewelry
Beach Love boutique
Handmade with Beach Sand from Wrightsville Beach
Available at
BLUE MOON
GIFT SHOPS
910-799-5793
203 Racine Drive

The North Carolina Coastal Federation has been keeping our coast healthy and beautiful for 35 years
North Carolina Coastal Federation
35 years
working together for a healthy coast
Join today and explore the coast with our Anniversary Series of 35 Adventures, including the 35th Anniversary Soundside Soirée on August 5th.
Visit www.nccoast.org/Celebrate35 to learn more

elle
visionary clothes for visionary women
1437 Military Cutoff
Suite 105
Wilmington, NC
Mon-Fri 10-7
Sat 10-5
Sun 12-5
www.elleclothing.com
follow us @ellewilmington

DeBRUHL'S
OF WILMINGTON
Shabby Chic Furniture | Antiques | Fine Decor | Gifts
910.228.6637
225 Pine Grove Dr. Wilmington, NC 28403 (across from Hugh MacRae Park)
Mon-Sat: 10am-5pm | angiebass7@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/DeBruhls

old. He'd grown up in Gastonia not too far from the place where I'd grown up, and he'd been working at the mill — under one owner or another — since the late 1970s.

"There were almost 200 employees back then," he said. "Today, we've got two on the floor."

Inside, two middle-aged women were busy packaging cloth rope and preparing it to be shipped. Neither of them looked up when Walter and I passed.

The mill appeared even older once I was inside it. It was dark and musty, the hardwood floor worn smooth from decades of foot traffic and pocked from years of heavy machinery being moved across it, the ceiling low and riddled with what appeared to be hand-hewn beams and crossbeams where single bulbs cast soft yellow light defined by deep shadows.

"This is probably exactly what this place looked like when she worked here back in '29," Walter said. He stopped, looked at me. "What did she do?"

"She was a spinner," I said.

"Come on," he said.

I followed him up a rickety staircase to the second story. It ran almost the length of the mill, but it was virtually empty. The roof pitched above us at a sharp angle. Sunlight streamed through dirty glass windows and chinks in the walls. Gaps in the flooring made it so I could see through to the story below.

"This is where the spinners would've worked," he said. "The machines would've been up here."

"Would it have been loud?" I asked.

"Deafening."

"And hot?"

"You can't imagine," he said.

"She worked 70 hours a week for $9," I said. "And she had five children. Four had already passed away. She joined the strike because she thought the rest of them might die if something didn't change."

He drew his lips into a straight line, shook his head in what seemed like either disbelief or disappointment. I thought of the two silent women at work downstairs, and I wondered if Walter saw anything of Ella's story in theirs.

When I left, I told Walter that I'd make sure he got a copy of my novel when it came out. I told him I'd drop by the mill and see him. He smiled.

"If we're still here," he said. "If so, I hope you'll stop by."

I've learned that sometimes, as a writer, you have to get out of the (rental) car and open doors. Other times, it's best to wait for doors to be opened to you.

Wiley Cash lives in Wilmington, North Carolina, with his wife and their two daughters. His forthcoming novel The Last Ballad *is available for pre-order wherever books are sold.*

LET OUR LEGACY PROTECT YOURS
You've worked hard to create a life, a career, and a legacy that you are proud of. So have we. In 1920, our great-grandfather Harold W. Wells, Sr., planted the seed which would become our family business, now in its fourth generation of private ownership. Wells Insurance was established to protect our client's homes, assets and businesses, and for 97 years we've remained focused on our vision of excellence in insurance. Harold's original office of three has grown to a staff of more than 75 professionals, who provide legendary, carefully-crafted protection to individuals and businesses across 48 states.
Our home is Coastal North Carolina, and our specialty is providing insurance solutions to those with substantial assets and complex needs - done right from the start. Allow us to provide a proposal of custom solutions to protect the things you've worked for, and let our family's legacy secure yours - for generations to come.
Wilmington
Wrightsville Beach
Southport
Myrtle Beach
WELLS INSURANCE
910.762.8551
800.849.1921
wellsins.com
Proudly offering wind-only coverage from
FRONTline INSURANCE

Prepare your HVAC System for Summer Weather Now

BEAT THE HEAT!

ODYSSEY
FIRE PROTECTION LLC
MECHANICAL DIVISION
HEATING & AIR

Call to set up a consultation today!

- Service
- Preventive Maintenance
- Installation
- Commercial & Residential

CAROLINA PRIDE QUALITY PROMISE

INFO@ODYSSEYMECHANICAL.COM | WWW.ODYSSEYMECHANICAL.COM | NC LICENSE #28597

210 OLD DAIRY ROAD, SUITE A1, WILMINGTON, NC 28405 | T: 910.392.6400 | F: 910.392.6401

Imagine yourself in a new bathroom... in just a few days.

BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS DON'T HAVE TO BE EXPENSIVE.
*Visit **triadrebath.com** today for a special offer.*

Visit our Idea Showroom today.
Free design consultation.

RE•BATH

RE•BATH OF WILMINGTON
6010 OLEANDER DRIVE | WILMINGTON, NC
910.208.9109 WILMINGTONREBATH.COM

Nice Work if You Can Get It

Local actor Cullen Moss has a full-fledged film career in our small pond

Actor Cullen Moss as officer Gorman in AMC's The Walking Dead, *as mission control commander in* Hidden Figures, *behind the scenes with co-star Sadie Stratton for* WGN's The Underground, *and as Bodee in* The Notebook.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF CULLEN MOSS AND HOPPER STONE; COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

By Nicholas Gray

"How do I know that face?" It's a question that may come up with some frequency in our hamlet. Star sightings have unfortunately slumped from our filmic heyday since the 2014 shifts in our North Carolina film incentive packages, but a familiar face you might recognize on our seaside beaches or late-night haunts is the *One Tree Hill* regular Cullen Moss.

But that's not the only place. Most recently seen as Mission Control counting down the rocket launch in the Academy Award-nominated film for Best Picture *Hidden Figures*, Moss's small town address doesn't hinder his big screen success.

You've also seen him literally explode in the blockbuster *Iron Man 3*, offer a great dramatic turn in award-heavyweight *Birth of a Nation*, and glimpsed him through your tears in Nicholas Sparks' *Safe Haven*, *Dear John* and *The Notebook*. In roles like these, and his at least 60 others, Moss will always deliver: "There may be a lot of moments when I don't even have a line in a certain scene, but I'll always be in the moment, I'll always pretend my damnedest, and I'm thankful it doesn't go unnoticed by the directors and producers."

A stage actor, it was booking that *One Tree Hill* gig that snowballed into a career for Moss, a Winston-Salem native.

Over the nine seasons that *One Tree Hill* ran the teen scene, Moss appeared in over 40 episodes as the unambitious but relatable Junk Moretti, one of the only characters to show face in every season, including the first and final episodes.

While you may have found a certain ease about the friendly face on *OTH*, you certainly wouldn't after Moss's breakthrough one-off as the uber-creepster Officer Gorman in season five of AMC's *The Walking Dead*, in which he gave us all a whole new perspective on lollipops. Moss frequents fan conventions around the country to fanatic response at the zombie-cons.

Even five years after *OTH* has ceased to air, we continue to be a destination spot for fangirls (and boys) hoping to catch a glimpse at oft-seen set locations. And even as sidewalk shrieking has occurred for years, should Moss's oldest son, Dixon, be on the scene, he will habitually ask, "Why do they even care?"

But care they should.

If you've ever been privy to one of many of Cullen's powerhouse theatrical performances on our local stages over the last 20-plus years, you too will fangirl (or boy). Moss was an asset to City Stage and the sketch comedy troupe Changing Channels. His guest performance as Roy Cohn in UNCW's *Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches* was simply spell-binding, and no doubt a tremendous learning experience for the students that flanked his performance. And, though it's tricky to get him on stage in recent years due to his demanding booking schedule for film and TV, he recently stole the show in TheatreNOW's production of *Greater Tuna*, which earned him the 2017 StarNews Theater Award for Best Actor in a Play.

As to what will get Cullen onstage in the present moment, he admits it is a tough sell. Remaining available for potential film roles is a certain must, and in case you didn't know, it kinda pays out the wazoo, so as any family man would understand, "You can't say 'No' to a real job."

But even as husband to his wife, Madison, whom he met during City Stage's production of *Debbie Does Dallas - The Musical*, and his three boys, there's always a chance. "With a great show and people, I'm going to have a great time through the process," says Moss of longtime theater peers Justin Smith and Don Baker. Like many actors, Moss would always choose theater over film if the catch-22 of money weren't in the picture. "It's a tremendous escape, I miss the shit out of it, and it's always a rare opportunity to create a full character."

While Moss's resume is longer and stronger than nearly all New York or Los Angeles acting hopefuls, he doesn't always show his chops on film as much as he'd like. "As a Southeastern actor, there's a ceiling we hit; regionally, we are getting a shot at the leftovers," often simply one or two lines here or there, and most optimally, one killer scene. Like Moss's scene in HBO's *Eastbound and Down* when he went toe-to-toe with creator/star Danny McBride, playing McBride's double-diamond-stud wearing boss at the car rental agency chiding him for smushing all the doughnuts.

Including Officer Gorman, Cullen has played a cop at least eight times, making law enforcement his unspoken "type." Locals who remember his theatrical performance in the Red Barn's production of *Lobby Hero* can attest to why; he's everything you want in an everyman.

As for what the future holds for Moss, it's family first. That's what will luckily keep him in our sights, as well as local independent filmmakers that provide those leading roles to dig into the work he truly merits. Most recently, *Finding Home*, an independent film starring Moss as a flawed and lovable father-figure, is making the festival rounds to warm response. Although his jaunts to Los Angeles have been fruitful in the past and another trip is on the horizon, we still want to see that familiar face.

(Full disclosure, Cullen is a dear friend of mine and a dang good poker player. I've no doubt anybody who can steal my money that fast has a well-earned future in showbiz ahead.)

Nicholas Gray is the former artistic director of City Stage Co.

PATHFINDER
WEALTH CONSULTING
Guiding You Forward

FINDING YOUR PATH . . . **OUR PASSION** IS MAKING SURE YOU CAN PURSUE ALL OF **YOURS**

910.793.0616
pwcpath.com

4018 Oleander Dr. Ste 102
Wilmington, NC 28403

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, member FINRA/SIPC, a registered investment adviser.

The Adventure of an Education

At Gulfstream Restaurant, the inspiring founder of the National Center of Outdoor & Adventure Education digs in

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW SHERMAN

By Dana Sachs

This summer, ten local teens will fly to Alaska, take a small plane into the back country, and spend three weeks hiking and clearing trails. These days, many young people go on similar organized wilderness adventures, but these Wilmington teens are not typical participants. They all have either been identified as "chronically homeless" or they live below the poverty level, and all of them are dedicated and motivated for change. Each of them earned this trip — which is funded, in part, through a $25,000 grant from the National Park Service — by excelling at a program called Education Without Walls.

"These kids deserve to be the next astronauts or doctors or lawyers," says Zac Adair, executive director of the nonprofit National Center of Outdoor & Adventure Education (NCOAE), which runs Education Without Walls. "We want to give them that chance."

I'm having lunch with Zac at Gulfstream Restaurant, only a mile or so from NCOAE's 17-acre campus in Carolina Beach. Zac, at 42, is a former adventure guide himself, and I can easily imagine him communicating both confidence and reassurance to these teens — 80 percent "You can do it!" and 20 percent "We'll help you if you falter."

Zac's enthusiasm stems, in part, from a deep-rooted faith in our species — "Human beings are pretty amazing," he says — but his optimism may also come from the fact that he has overcome hardship himself. Zac is blind. He steps into the wilderness every day.

For his first 28 years, Zac had normal vision and a more-than-normal love of the outdoors. "I was surfing, it seems, as soon as I was able to swim. I was always running around in woods, climbing on rocks." After high school, he enrolled at the University of Georgia, but college wasn't right for him. When his parents saw his first set of grades, they said, "OK, you're on your own."

He was fine with that. He wanted to build a career from his passion, so he went to work as a river rafting guide and ski instructor. "I lived out of the back of my Toyota Tacoma for many years," he says. "That was great. I did lots of couch surfing."

Everything changed one afternoon in 2003. After spending a day surfing on the Outer Banks, he got on his bike to ride home. It was dusk, and he was standing at an intersection — at a "dead stop," he says — when a distracted driver ran into him. Nine days later, Zac woke from a coma. He was blind and his cervical spine had broken in six places. He spent four months in the hospital, six months with a walker ("like an old person") and the next year recover-

100 YEARS
5 GENERATIONS
1 NAME

NEESE'S®

Country Sausage

From Our Family to Yours for 100 Years

From Christmas dinners to first-day-of-school breakfasts—and all the little moments in between—we're proud to be a part of your family tradition. Try Neese's and you'll see why we've been the sausage of choice for a century.

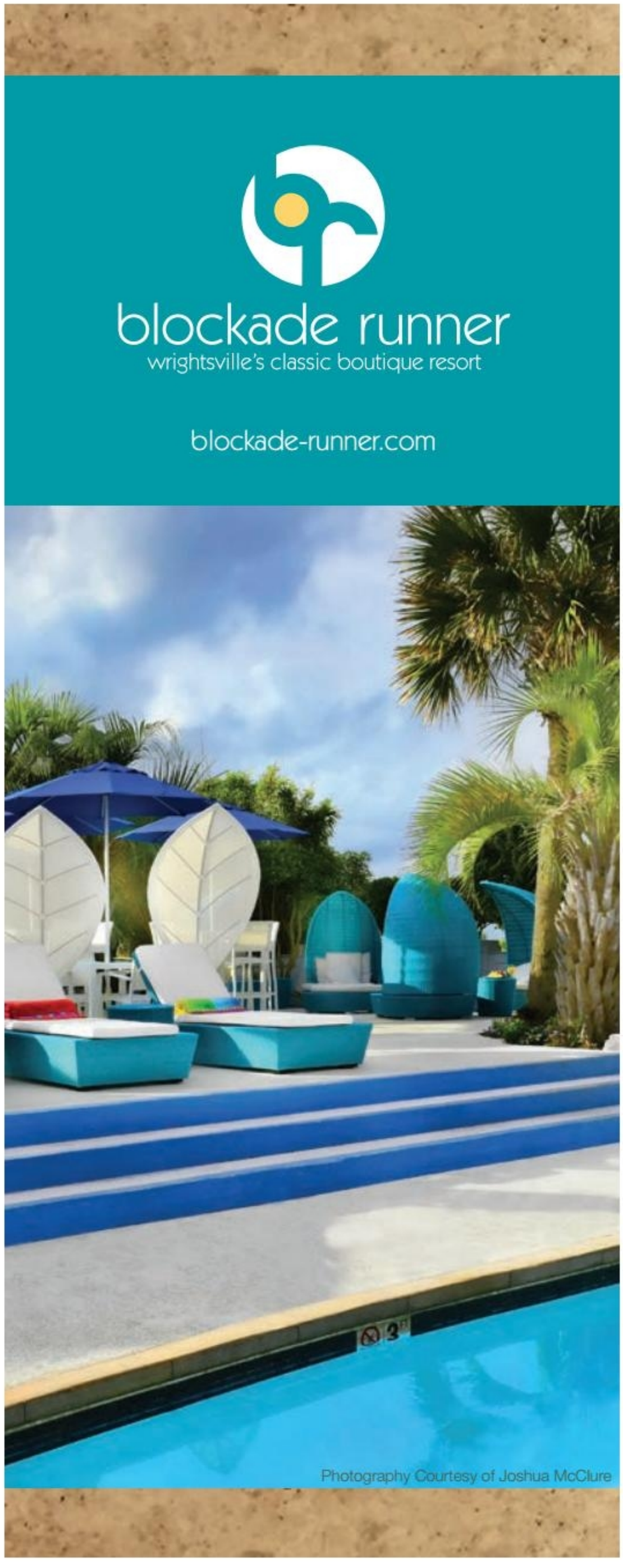
neesesausage.com

ing from both physical injury and depression. "I lost everything I had," he tells me. He would never again work as an outdoor guide, and he couldn't return to his back-up work as a carpenter, either. "There was no way that I was getting a job with anyone after that."

But Zac still had his knowledge about nature and an inherent strength. He'd enjoyed independence his whole life, so he wasn't willing to become dependent on anyone now. Even blind, he decided, he had a future — but not as someone's employee. "No one else would have me, so I decided I'd compete with them." He needed a degree to do that, so he enrolled at Prescott College, which has an excellent reputation for outdoor and adventure education.

To get to Prescott, Zac flew by himself to Arizona, then found his way from the airport to the college. Cane in hand, he walked into the admissions office and introduced himself: "Hey, I'm Zac. I'm starting here in a couple of weeks." When he explained that he needed housing, one of the admissions officers led him out to his pickup truck and said, "Let's go look at some places." Four years later, Zac graduated from Prescott with both a B.A. and an M.A. in Adventure Education.

Zac wanted to build an organization dedicated to helping people learn in the outdoors, so he started making contacts. Research on the internet led him to Celine Russo, his future wife and business partner, who had graduated from Prescott a few years earlier. Pretty soon, the two were talking on the phone all night. When he finally flew to Colorado to visit her, she recognized him immediately. "I was probably the only guy with a red and white cane," he says. They've been together ever since. They moved to Carolina Beach in 2008 and formally opened NCOAE with Zac as executive director and Celine as director of operations. The organization started out with $1,000, most of which



The SARAH HARRIS Team

Proven Top Producer & 2016 Listing Agent of the Year

Serving Clients in Ocean Isle Beach and the Wilmington area!

910.209.2535 | SarahHarris@IntracoastalRealty.com | SarahHarris.IntracoastalRealty.com

Download my free home search APP: **App.IntracoastalRealty.com/SarahHarris**

ACTIVE

2236 Acacia Drive
$719,900 | South Oleander

SOLD

521 Moss Tree Drive
$899,900 | Landfall

SOLD

158 E First Street
$1,525,000 | Ocean Isle Beach

SOLD

152 W Third Street
$989,000 | Ocean Isle Beach

ACTIVE

377 W First Street
$1,649,990 | Ocean Isle Beach

PENDING

125 Ocean Isle West
$1,240,000 | Ocean Isle Beach

ACTIVE

26 E Second Street
$739,000 | Ocean Isle Beach

ACTIVE

22 Dare Street
$699,000 | Ocean Isle Beach

Your home belongs here!

Call today for a no-obligation property assessment.

SOLD

Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD®

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL®

Intracoastal REALTY CORPORATION

Experience the Exceptional

went into purchasing eight backpacks. These days, their annual budget approaches $1,000,000 and they have 50 guides running trips throughout the world, plus four full-time office staff members. NCOAE's wide-ranging course catalog includes outdoor-educator training in Patagonia, college-credit semesters in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest, basic and advanced EMT courses, and wilderness medicine training at the Carolina Beach headquarters.

The nautical-themed Gulfstream Restaurant is only a mile or so from NCOAE's rustic, wooded campus, so Zac often comes in the mornings for corned beef hash. Today, we order lunch specialties, including the Fisherman's Catch, a pick-your-favorites combo. Ours features fried oysters, shrimp, scallops and flounder. Fans of Calabash-style seafood know that deep frying presents challenges, and Gulfstream's cooks avoid mistakes. "Some restaurants," Zac says, "will bread the hell out of it. They didn't do that." We both like the oniony hushpuppies, which Zac calls "gooey on the inside and crunchy on the outside." The open-faced turkey sandwich is "savory, very Southern, not overloaded with gravy or bread, and not too soggy." And, as for the BBQ Bacon Burger, Zac said, 'I'll give it a 10 out of 10."

After lunch, I drive him back to his office and we talk for a minute in the car. I'm watching a couple of guys playing Frisbee on the lawn while Zac tells me his plans for the property — a house for his family, a better road through the trees (he'd like to try to ride a bike). After we say goodbye, he starts up the path toward the office with his cane. Then, hearing the Frisbee players, he stops to join them. He raises an arm into the air and says, "Here." One guy hands him the disc.

Zac tips his face toward the sky, listening. "Where?" he asks.

From across the lawn, another guy yells to signal his location.

Zac orients himself to the sound of the voice, pulls the Frisbee to his chest, then flings his arm and lets it fly.

Gulfstream Restaurant, at 78 Myrtle Avenue in Carolina Beach, is open every day for every meal. Call (910) 458-8744 to find out more about its menu and hours. The National Center for Outdoor & Adventure Education offers its wide-ranging course catalog and other information at https://ncoae.org.

Dana Sachs' latest novel, The Secret of the Nightingale Palace, *is available at bookstores, online and throughout Wilmington.*

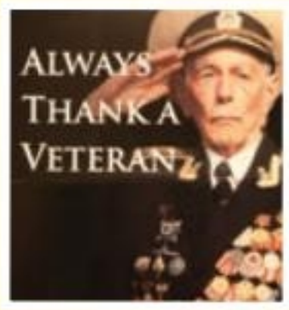
Brightmore
UNIVERSITY SERIES

A Diverse Program for Lifestyle Enrichment

2017 Summer Session

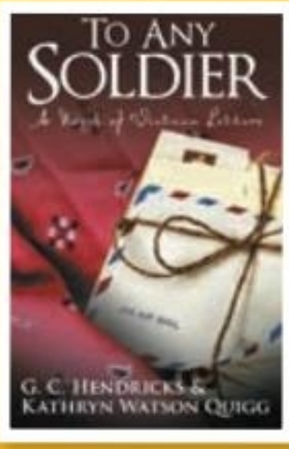
June

An Exploration of Dance Series
Session 1: Jazz: *An Expanding Style*
Presented by: Ella Rose Hood, International Baccalaureate Student
Thursday, June 15th , 2017 at 2:00 PM
This 3-session Series by a Hoggard High School student delves into the depths of dance and shows how the progression of society has changed the styles of dance, how they began, changed and are today. Includes a performance of each style.
RSVP by Wednesday, June 14th



Salute to the Troops Concert & Dance
Third Annual Pre-4th of July Event
Presented by: Brightmore with support from Wilmington Funeral & Cremation and Liberty Hospice
Thursday, June 29th, 2017 at 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Join us for this *FREE* Patriotic Concert & Dance featuring a real "Big Band" performing World War II Big Band & Jazz Favorites. Includes Picnic-style Dinner Buffet. Proceeds from donations and purchase of adult beverage and raffle tickets benefit The Wilmington Parkinson Support Group.
RSVP by Monday, June 26th

July



"To Any Soldier: *A Novel of Vietnam Letters*" Book Review
Presented by: Kathryn Watson Quigg, Co-Author
Thursday, July 6th, 2017 at 2:00 PM
This epistolary novel is grounded in the personal experiences of Co-authors, Kathryn Watson Quigg, artist and educator, and critically-acclaimed writer and pilot, G. C. "Pete" Hendricks. Join us and learn how amid the bloodshed in Vietnam and civil unrest at home, Jay Fox and Ashley Beth Justice dared to dream of a life together while struggling to understand the war and themselves.
RSVP by Wednesday, July 5th

For the complete Summer Session Schedule, visit www.brightmoreofwilmington.com

Brightmore of Wilmington
2324 South 41st Street, Wilmington | 910.350.1980
www.brightmoreofwilmington.com

MICHELE SIMPSON DDS

Now Welcoming
NEW PATIENTS

Dr. Simpson combines
advanced dental technology with
a gentle, friendly style.

Comprehensive Family Dental Care

- Cleanings & Exams
- Restorations
- Tooth Whitening
- Crowns & Bridges
- Dentures & Implants
- Veneers
- Gum Disease
- Digital Impressions
- Snoring Appliance
- TMJ Treatment
- Digital X-rays
- Nitrous Oxide
- Advance Technology
- and MORE!

910.791.7911 | www.CrownMySmile.com
3317 Masonboro Loop Road, Suite 140
Wilmington, NC 28409

THALIAN ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY THEATRE 2017-18 Season

Main Stage | Youth Theatre

TICKET PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Mel Brook's Young Frankenstein
Book by Mel Brooks & Thomas Meehan, Music & lyrics by Mel Brooks
September 29-October 8, 2017

Hairspray
Book by Mark O'Donnell & Thomas Meehan, Music by Marc Shaiman, Lyrics by Scott Wittman & Marc Shaiman
September 15-24, 2017

A Christmas Story: The Musical
Book by Joseph Robinette, Music & lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul
December 8-17, 2017

Disney's Beauty and the Beast
Book by Linda Woolverton, Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice
November 10-19, 2017

Oliver!
Book, Music & lyrics by Lionel Bart
February 9-18, 2018

A Year with Frog and Toad
Book & lyrics by Willie Reale, Music by Robert Reale
January 19-28, 2018

The Bridges of Madison County
Book by Marsha Norman, Music & lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
March 23-April 1, 2018

Junie B. Jones the Musical
Book, & lyrics by Marcy Heisler, Music by Zina Goldrich
March 2-11, 2018

Sweet Charity
Book by Neil Simon, Music by Cy Coleman, & Lyrics by Dorothy Fields
May 18-27, 2018

Disney's Tarzan
Book by David Henry Hwang, Music & lyrics by Phil Collins
April 27-May 6, 2018

thalian.org

FRI-SAT @ 7:30 PM SUN @ 3:00 PM
THALIAN HALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
310 CHESTNUT ST/WILMINGTON, NC
910.632.2285

FRI-SAT @ 7:30 PM SUN @ 3:00 PM
2ND ST STAGE/HANNAH BLOCK HISTORIC
USO BLDG 120 S 2ND ST/WILMINGTON, NC
910.341.7860

UPTOWN MARKET

8006 Market Street - 910.319.7929 • 8086 Market Street - 910.686.0930
Open Mon-Sat 10am-6pm • Sun 12pm-6pm

Rebuild your *health*
in our *gracious,*
welcoming atmosphere

THE DAVIS COMMUNITY

Considering elective surgery?

Make your first step to recovery a phone call to pre-register for your own private rehabilitation room.

- *Rehabilitation & Wellness Pavilion, Porters Neck Road*
- *Davis Health & Wellness Center, Cambridge Village near Mayfaire*

910.686.7195 | thedaviscommunity.org

Conversion Eggs-perience

High-end egg salad makes for a heavenly revelation

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW SHERMAN

By Jason Frye

The first time I had egg salad, I was disgusted. I was also 8, and the very thought of mayonnaise and chopped-up pickles and egg yolk all mashed up and mixed in with little chunks of boiled egg whites was enough to make me want to throw a glass of punch in someone's face (I watched *Dynasty* and *Falcon Crest* with my grandmother and thought throwing a drink in someone's face was a perfectly reasonable response to many situations) and storm out of the Crooked Creek Church of Christ's Fellowship Hall. I did not. Instead, I took a scoop of egg salad (because my mom told me to) and ate a tentative bite (because my mom told me to) and immediately said what I thought it tasted like (my mom told me that was not a polite word to say in church, or in public, for that matter).

Flash forward to the present day. My wife and I are sitting in PinPoint with guests from out of town. We look over the menu and pick out the appetizers we want and one catches my eye: egg salad.

Curious. Egg salad. A restaurant of this caliber serving egg salad.

I mean, PinPoint is a Southern restaurant, and egg salad has been a staple at every church dinner, wedding or funeral I've ever attended from West Virginia (arguably not the South, but arguably Southern, a topic for another day) to North Carolina (most definitely Southern). Chef Dean Neff has a pedigree steeped in Southern cooking. And it was just enough of a curve ball from our other appetizers — oysters, a cheese plate, pickled things — to make things interesting. So I ordered it.

When it came, I was delighted to see the heightened economy of Chef Neff on display even on such a simple dish. The knife-work on the egg was perfect, almost like it was milled on some computer-controlled machine. The ratio of pickle to egg to seasoning was spot on. The cornichon so delicately sliced and splayed across the top with a smattering of fresh herbs was the ideal garnish. The ratio of egg salad to toastlettes was exactly right. And the dish presented beautifully with the egg salad not in a scoop or mound (or gloppy spoonful thwacked onto a paper plate like my first egg salad experience), but a proud, squat cylinder in the right proportion to the plate, surrounded by the tiny toast and topped with that cute little cornichon.

I hated to break up the scene and eat it, but it had to be done.

A swipe of the knife and I had enough to top one of the miniature toasts. (Even that was beautiful and all I did was wipe egg salad on toasted bread.) When I popped it in my mouth, it was everything that first church dinner egg salad was not.

It was moist; the seasoning was there but not forcefully so; the pickle lent crunch, sourness, a bit of sweet to the bite. You could taste every element and they were all in the exact right proportion.

I wanted to hop in a time machine, bring the dish to that church dinner and hand it to my 8-year-old self and the whole congregation even though I knew that was a bad use of a time machine. But I wanted to do it anyway because PinPoint's egg salad is the egg salad by which I will forevermore measure all other egg salads against.

Jason Frye is a regular Salt *contributor and convert to the Church of Egg Salad; keep track of where and what he eats by following him on Instagram : @beardedwriter.*

THE ART OF LIVING WELL

Your retirement years have so much to offer. Choose a community that does, as well. Carolina Bay at Autumn Hall offers a truly enviable location, a host of elegant floor plans, luxurious amenities, endless activities and exceptional dining venues. For extraordinary independent living, plus a continuum of care should you need it, Carolina Bay was built for this time in your life.

CAROLINA BAY
AT AUTUMN HALL

LIFE PLAN COMMUNITY
Continuing Care Retirement Community
from the Liberty Senior Living family.

866.455.0599 / 910.769.7500
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA Schedule a visit.

Tastes of Blue

A blueberry festival contest winner shares two blue ribbon recipes

By Hope Cusick

This year the 14th annual North Carolina Blueberry Festival celebrates Southern hospitality, local pride and the importance of blueberries in the southeast part of our state. Pender County is the second largest grower of blueberries in the state due to the salt and pepper land the berries love, and the work of some ambitious growers dating back to the 1920s.

The festival is expected to draw nearly 30,000 visitors to the tiny town square of Burgaw. There will be a recipe contest, barbecue cook-off, queen and princesses, concerts, a 5K run, street fair, food and craft booths, and a car show. There will be fresh blueberries for sale, along with blueberry ice cream, and other blueberry goodies.

Grab the largest bucket you can. Blueberries are known for their antioxidant and anticancer properties. Here are two of my blue ribbon recipes from past N.C. Blueberry Festivals, a flavorful summer salsa that you can whip up in an instant and a French-inspired blueberry and peach clafoutis that will leave your dinner guests satisfied. Is there anything better than fresh blueberries?

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW SHERMAN

Blueberry and Peach Clafoutis

1 tablespoon butter, room temperature
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 tablespoon of lemon juice
grated zest of one lemon, about 2-teaspoons
1 1/2 pounds local peaches, cut into 1/2 inch wedges
2 cups fresh, local blueberries
4 large eggs, room temperature
1 cup almond milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
Pinch of salt
1/2 cup heavy cream
Confectioner' sugar for garnish
Whipped cream or vanilla ice cream, if desired

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a shallow 2 1/2 quart baking dish with butter and lightly dust with granulated sugar.

In a bowl, add lemon zest and 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Add the peach wedges, blueberries and 1 tablespoon of granulated sugar. Toss to combine.

In a blender, combine eggs, almond milk, almond and vanilla extracts, flour, salt, heavy cream, and 1/2 cup granulated sugar. Blend on high until mixture becomes frothy, about 1 minute.

Pour the fruit into the prepared pan along with any juices and pour the batter over the top. Bake at 350 degrees until set, about 45–50 minutes. Let cool.

When ready to serve, dust with confectioners' sugar and serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream, if desired.

Phase 2~Now Open
Call today to schedule a personal tour of Wilmington's premiere **resort style** retirement community.
CAMBRIDGE VILLAGE
WILMINGTON
An Optimal Living Community
910.239.9500 | 75 Cavalier Drive | Wilmington, NC 28405
www.cambridgevillageofwilmington.com

Live • Life • Well
Don't let pain or dizziness keep you from enjoying life.
bodies balance
Physical Therapy
BINBPT.COM
• Vertigo/Vestibular Disorders
• Back & Neck Pain
• Oncology/Lymphedema
• Orthopaedics
• Balance/Gait Deficits
• Post Surgical Rehab
• Concussion
WILMINGTON CLINIC:
5710 Oleander Dr., Suite 211, Wilmington, NC 28403
Phone: (910) 398.6301 • Fax: (910) 398.6305
HAMPSTEAD CLINIC:
14057 Hwy 17N, Suite 230, Hampstead, NC 28443
Phone: (910) 821.3377 • Fax: (910) 821.3380

Blueberry Summer Salsa (Serves 8)

- 4 cups large fresh, local blueberries
- 1 cup coarsely chopped fresh, local strawberries
- 1/4 cup red onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup Vidalia or sweet onion, chopped
- 1 medium jalapeño pepper, diced
- 1 medium poblano pepper, diced
- 1/2 large yellow bell pepper, diced
- 1/2 large orange bell pepper, diced
- 3 tablespoons fresh cilantro, chopped
- 3 tablespoons orange juice
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons Grand Marnier (optional)

In a clear glass serving bowl mix together blueberries, strawberries, red onion, sweet onion, jalapeño and other peppers, and cilantro. In another bowl whisk together citrus juices, olive oil and Grand Marnier (optional) until well blended. Pour over fruit mixture and toss to combine. Add salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste.

TIP: Get your blueberries early because they do sell out quickly. You can freeze the berries for future use: Do not rinse the blueberries, spread the berries out on flat pans, removing any leaves or debris, then place in the freezer and freeze until frozen, then pour into sealable containers usually holding one or two cups of blueberries for ready use in a recipe.

Info: NC Blueberry Festival, Saturday, June 16–17, all day. Free. Historic Downtown Burgaw. www.ncblueberryfestival.com

Hope Cusick is a prize-winning cook, a poet, and a Pender County columnist. Her confections take home prizes at the Blueberry, Strawberry, and Rice festivals, as well as the county fair.

Explore Your Passion for Everything Linen...

THE DUX® AXION 15

The DUX® Axion 15 combines the benefits of the DUX sleep system with the elevation capabilities of an adjustable bed. Its multi-layered Swedish steel springs offer the perfectcombination of stability and support, while its dynamic, silent motor helps you settle into just the right height and angle.

DUX® | THE DUX BED

Opulence Of Southern Pines

Opulence of Southern Pines and DUXIANA

at The Mews, 280 NW Broad Street,
Downtown Southern Pines, NC
910.692.2744

at Cameron Village,
400 Daniels Street, Raleigh, NC
919.467.1781

www.OpulenceOfSouthernPines.com

Serving the Carolinas & More for 18 Years — Financing Available

Airlie GARDENS

2017 Concert SERIES

June 2nd - Bad Disguise, *Classic Rock*

June 16th - Jack Jack 180, *Pop/Rock/Alternative*

July 7th - Wilmington Big Band, *Patriotic/Big Band*

Off-Site Concert Parking has Moved!
230 Government Center Drive (West Entrance)

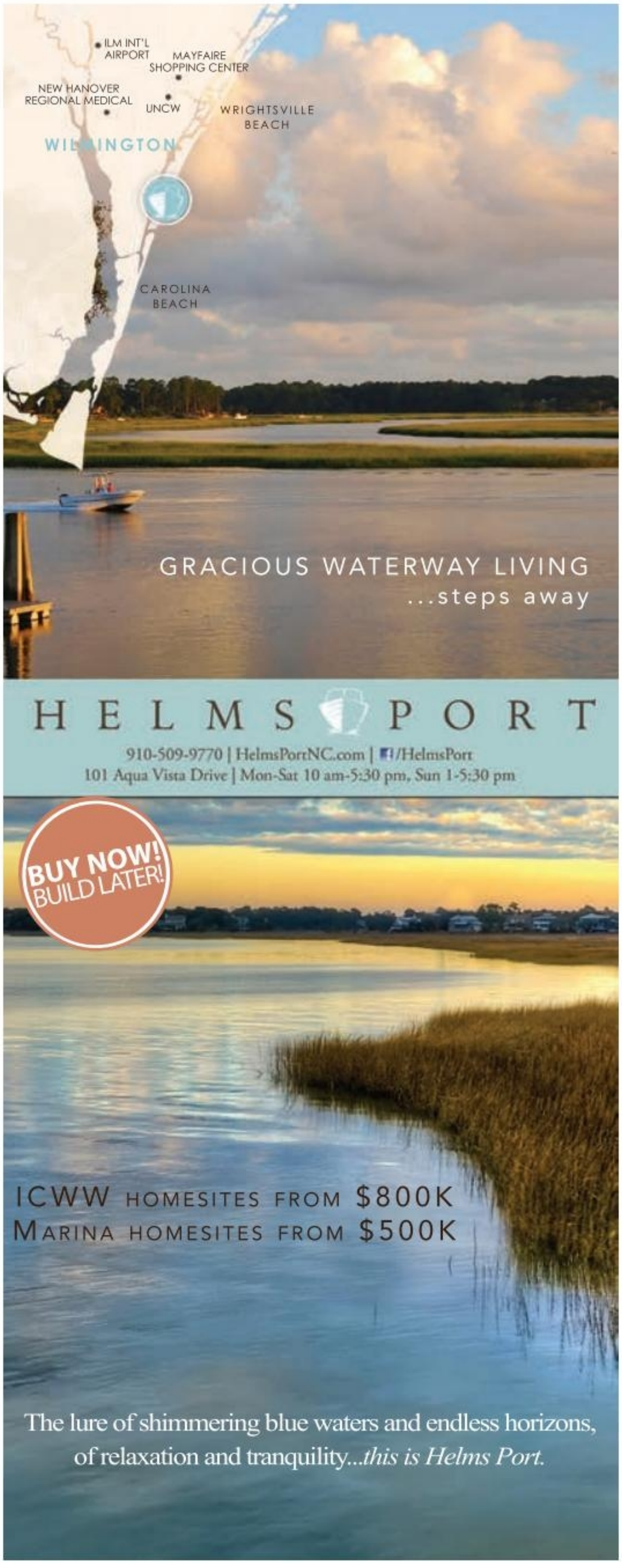
Airlie Gardens Presents...

Imagine
an exhibit by
Matthew J. Leavell

June 27th - Sept. 30th

www.AirlieGardens.org

salling&tate general dentistry · CAMPBELL COVINGTON ORTHODONTICS · MWC · SOUTH STATE BANK · HEDRICK GARDNER Hedrick Gardner Kincheloe & Garofalo LLP Attorneys at Law · RIPPY CADILLAC · Cadillac · outdoor creations landscape & design, inc.


ILM INT'L AIRPORT
MAYFAIRE SHOPPING CENTER
NEW HANOVER REGIONAL MEDICAL
UNCW
WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH
WILMINGTON
CAROLINA BEACH
GRACIOUS WATERWAY LIVING
...steps away
HELMS PORT
910-509-9770 | HelmsPortNC.com | /HelmsPort
101 Aqua Vista Drive | Mon-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm, Sun 1-5:30 pm
BUY NOW! BUILD LATER!
ICWW HOMESITES FROM $800K
MARINA HOMESITES FROM $500K
The lure of shimmering blue waters and endless horizons, of relaxation and tranquility...this is Helms Port.

mfgCON | Powered by BUSINESS NC and NCMEP

2017
MANUFACTURING
CONFERENCE

September 19–20 | Winston-Salem, NC

Two days of learning, networking and industry collaboration for manufacturing professionals.

ncmep.org/mfgcon

What's So Funny?

Uproarious laughing gulls find folly everywhere

PHOTOGRAPH BY DEBRA REGULA

By Susan Campbell

For me, nothing evokes childhood memories of long days at the beach more than raucous calls of seagulls. It seems like just yesterday: warm breezes blowing, the surf crashing against the shore and sand between my toes, all the while being serenaded by loud laughter from above. Although I did not know it at the time, the birds responsible were laughing gulls. Here on the East Coast they are one of the most numerous and noticeable species in saltwater habitat. Individuals are instantly recognized not only by their distinctive voices, but by their crisp black hood. This bird can be found soaring along the North Carolina shoreline, bobbing up and down on open waters of the sound and, of course, loitering on our beaches.

These birds use a very specific language of displays to communicate among themselves. Territories are defended by ritualized bowing and neck extensions with a loud series of calls. Feather fluffing and wing flapping may also be involved if the debate heats up. The loser simply turns away, unscathed, to fight another day.

Laughing gulls can be seen in some numbers during the cooler months along the southern portions of our coast. However, they are joined by a handful of other gull species that appear in much larger numbers by about Thanksgiving. But in summer, laughings are by far the most numerous.

Pairs, which are monogamous and may stay together for several years, seek out uninhabited islands (often made of dredge spoil here) to build their nests. They are usually mixed in with other colonial nesting seabirds such as herons, ibis and shorebirds, as well as other gull species. Both male and female construct a nest platform that is close to the ground, on rocks or marsh vegetation or even in low shrubbery. Often it is placed at a somewhat higher elevation to avoid flooding associated with high tides and storm events. Eggs are heavily streaked in order to be camouflaged against the salt marsh vegetation and grasses that comprise the nest. The young, too, are mottled in order to keep them hidden, especially during the first few weeks of life, when they are left unattended by their foraging parents and are most vulnerable to predators.

Laughing gulls are, not surprisingly, very opportunistic feeders. They will grab anything from small fish and crabs to large insects and berries as well as handouts from humans. It is not unusual to see one or two attending a pelican, hoping to take advantage of prey that falls from its large gape as it surfaces with a mouth full of fish. Also, individuals may raid the nests of other gulls but nowhere as often as their larger cousins, the herring or great black-backed gulls.

Kids feeding gulls on the beach or on the back of a ferry is a common summer pastime. This usually involves a loaf of bread. As soon as the first bird catches a morsel, a flock of two or three dozen birds seems to appear out of nowhere! As much as gulls have pretty tough stomachs, white bread is (as is the case for other wild birds such as ducks and geese) not good for them. It expands when exposed to moisture in the gut and, given the lack of fiber content, can get bound up in their system. Of course, they seem to appreciate any handout they can get. But we need to think a little and offer something safer. Crackers or even a french fry or two would be better options.

So, for the next several months, laughing gulls will be inescapable here at the coast. A walk on the beach, fishing out in the Gulf Stream or even a trip to the mall, these hysterical sounding birds will be everywhere. So keep an eye — and an ear out. No binoculars required!

Susan would love to receive your wildlife sightings and photos at susan@ncaves.com.

Known Quantity

Though a common sight today, pelicans still inspire awe

PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORY BY VIRGINIA HOLMAN

Familiarity is its own form of blindness. Even though we love the wildlife that makes the Cape Fear coast unique, those of us fortunate enough to live here sometimes take it for granted. We're only human.

A few summers ago, I sat on the beach with my niece and nephew. They are inlanders. I was checking email on my phone when I heard my nephew marvel at a squadron of pelicans gliding low, wingtips whisper-close to a long glassy wave face. His wonder as an outsider made me pause and set down my phone to see, really see, these massive yet graceful birds as they cruised and drafted, soared and dipped, then rose up and plunged headlong into the ocean. To see pelicans is to witness near-pterodactyls in our midst.

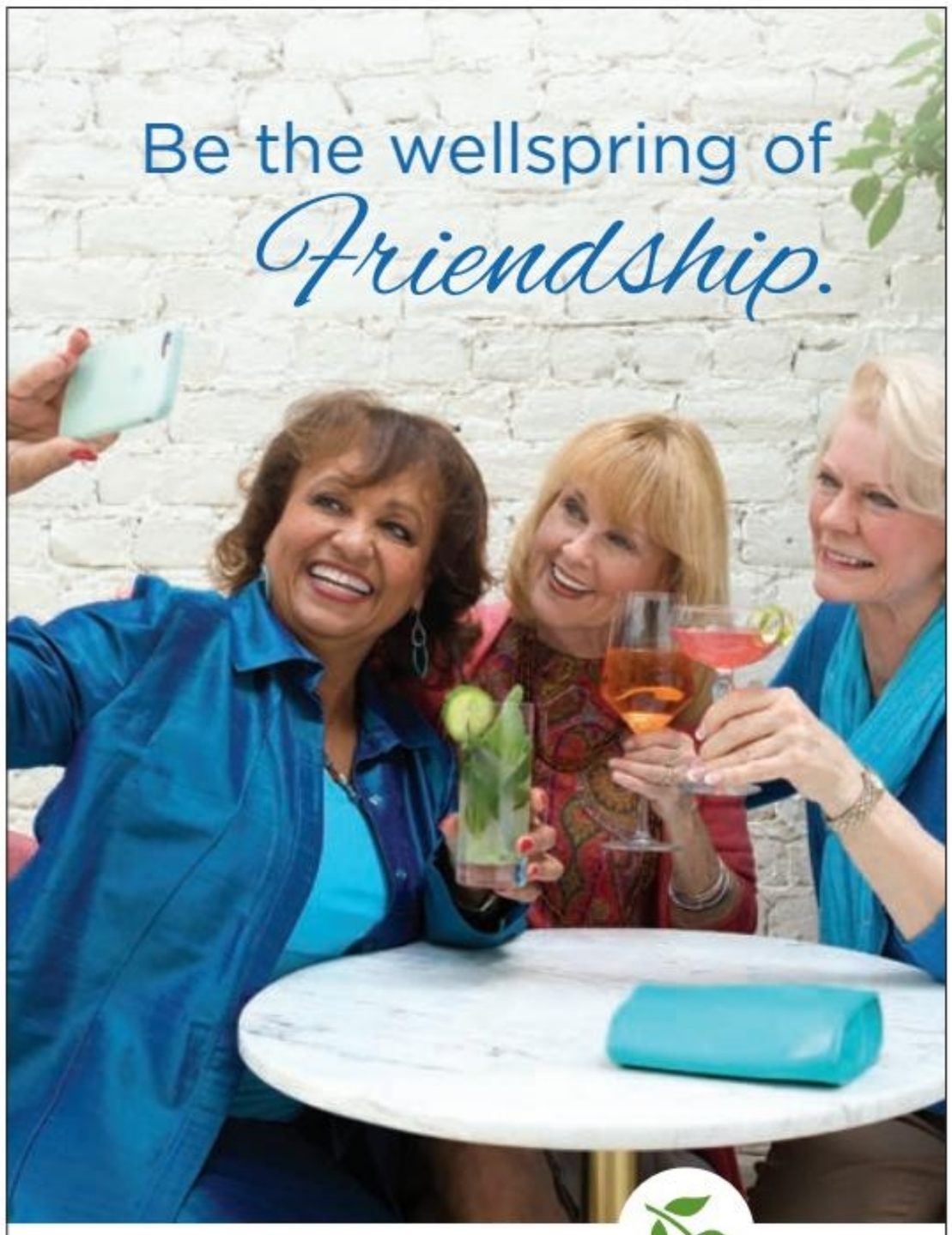
Pelicans incubate their eggs not by tucking them beneath their feathered breasts, but by warming them with their feet. In the 1950s and 1960s, when DDT was a widely used agricultural pesticide, the brown pelican population plummeted. DDT thinned pelican eggshells, and incubation often resulted in ruptured eggs. By 1973, Texas counted only 12 actively breeding brown pelicans. Two things saved them from extinction: Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, which led to DDT eventually being banned in 1972, and the passage

of the Endangered Species Act. By 2009, the brown pelican population had rebounded, increasing a thousandfold.

North Carolina Audubon wants to make sure that we never take our brown pelicans for granted. Each summer, biologist Lindsay Addison and master bander John Weske monitor and band birds at local colonies, with the help of local volunteers like you and me. It's sweaty, stinky, hot labor, but well worth it to make sure that brown pelicans thrive here for generations to come, reminding inlanders and islanders alike of their majesty.

Want to volunteer? Call Cape Fear Audubon at (910) 409-5160 or visit www.capefaeraudubon.org

Virginia Holman is a regular Salt *contributor and teaches in the creative writing department at UNCW.*



Well·Spring
A LIFE PLAN COMMUNITY

A wellspring is an abundant source. And that's what our friendly, welcoming community feels like—an abundant source of opportunities to grow, connect, and make new friends. As a Life Plan Community, Well•Spring offers not only a maintenance-free lifestyle, but also security and peace of mind for the future—which means you'll have plenty of time for adventure with friends, old and new.

CARF/CCAC ACCREDITED SINCE 2003

Start today—call us at
336·265·1557 or visit
Well-Spring.org

OUR DESIGN STUDIO CATERS TO YOU WITH ALL THE LATEST DESIGN TRENDS UNDER ONE ROOF

- *Your custom home should be a reflection of you*
- *Why settle for used when you can afford to build new*
- *2 Model Homes & Design Studio - open daily*

Paul Schumacher
SCHUMACHER HOMES

Your inspiration
has a home

10 Edgewood Ln. NE, Winnabow, North Carolina 28479 • 877-267-3482
schumacherhomes.com • Mon/Wed/Fri: 9-6, Tue/Thu: 10-8, Sat: 10-5, Sun: 1-5

Reclamation Project

Sunken shapes of claw, paw, toe
betray those who trespass on the beach
when tide is out.

Shells, their chambered lives
destroyed by roiling waves,
spread detritus like chad.

Stones that shine with wet color,
bronze, gold, orange, onyx,
dull to grey as sea breezes
dry them out.

Evening tide awakens, reaches,
erases evidence of interlopers,
leaves the shore like a bedsheet,
taut, smooth, tucked in.

– *Sarah Edwards*

The One Hundred Days of Cape Fear Summer

What to do, see, and eat this summer – so you don't miss a moment

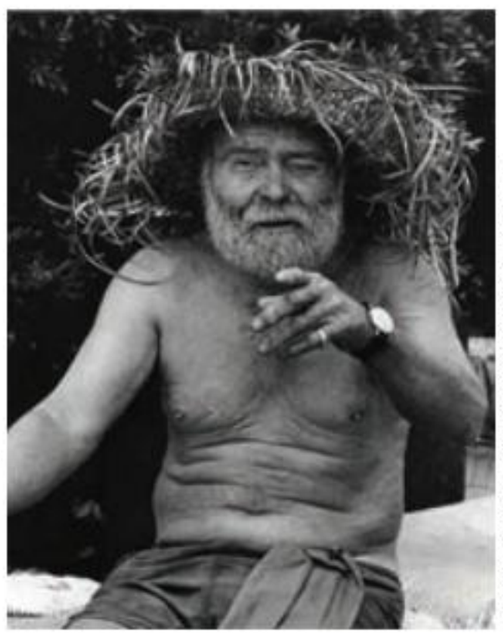
By Jason Frye, Virginia Holman, Mark Holmberg, William Irvine, John Wolfe and Isabel Zermani

There are roughly one hundred days of summer — give or take — but it always seems to go by so fast. From the moment sleeves go by the wayside, flip-flops are slipped on for the season, and the sun suspends high in the sky, way past dinnertime, we think this blessed season as infinite as the horizon. Summer won't wane for months, but we are going to be ahead of the game, fulfilling all our ambitions and appetites with this list.

You see, the low country heat has a way with ambition. It's a summertime amnesia that rolls in like an afternoon thundercloud, erasing all ideas for what to do, save go to the beach and crack open another cold one. Which is all well and good, but we decided to put our salty heads together to source ideas (for vacationers and locals alike) of how to live summer to the fullest before it vanishes like an August tan.

Off The Beaten Path

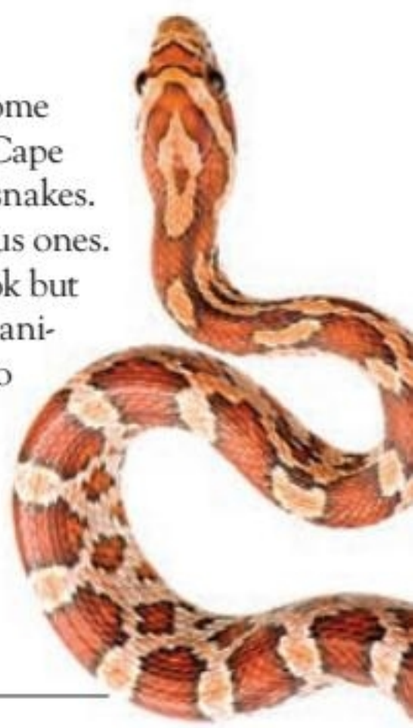
Respect the Hermit



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FORT FISHER

The Hermit of Fort Fisher, Robert Harrill (1893–1972), was a figure of the community who lived in a World War II concrete bunker in the salt marsh near Fort Fisher for many years. After a failed marriage and a string of bad luck, Harrell became a hermit at age 62. He learned survival skills, like how to find oysters and food from the surrounding marshes, and made himself into the area's second largest attraction (bested only by the *USS North Carolina).* He's the seaside version of Eustace Conway, survivalist and reality star of the History Channel's series *Mountain Men*. Many visitors flocked to the hermit's shack for a pearl of wisdom from his "School of Common Sense" musings and a photo. Some visited with ill motives. It was rumored he had thousands of dollars stashed in his shack. A group of these perpetrators were convicted in a trial where Harrill was both prosecutor and star witness. Sadly, he was murdered, a crime that goes unsolved. With a troubled life, he found solace in nature, and after adopting the hermit life, found the peace he sought. You can still visit his bunker from the Fort Fisher Hermit Trail at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area, Kure Beach. You can visit his grave at Federal Point Methodist Church Cemetery on Dow Road S., Kure Beach. Bring a seashell with you to leave by his graveside. For more info, watch the award-winning, moving PBS documentary *The Fort Fisher Hermit*, made by local filmmakers on YouTube. In September, Wilmington actors bring to life his story in a stage play at the Cape Fear Playhouse on Castle St. — IZ

Slithering Thrills



You can watch *Jaws* or, better yet, read it if you want some thrills at the beach, or you could head downtown to the Cape Fear Serpentarium. That's right, a building chock-full of snakes. And not just any snakes, poisonous ones. Super poisonous ones. Don't worry, they're all in glass enclosures, so you can look but neither you nor they can touch. They've got 80 species of animals here, including the King Cobra (who doesn't want to see a King Cobra?), a spitting cobra, a monocle and spectacled cobra, two kinds of bushmasters, black and green mambas, boas and pythons, crocodiles and some really big lizards. At each exhibit you can read a little about the snake — where it lives, how big it gets, how poisonous is it (measured in skull and crossbones) — and a little

about what happens when you get bitten. A firsthand account in many cases, as Serpentarium owner Dean Ripa caught many of these beauties and, in his quest to do so, was bitten. More than once. Call ahead to find out when feeding time is and you will get a closer look than you want at the deadliest creatures of the city. Cape Fear Serpentarium, 20 Orange St. Tickets: $9, (910) 762-1669, www.capefearserpentarium.com.

Wrightsville Beach Mailbox

At the far north end of Wrightsville Beach — nearly as far north as you can go without getting your feet wet — in the shade of the Shell Island Resort, there sits a mailbox without an address. Open it, and you will find pens and notebooks, letters from past visitors written to the sea and the sky and the future, scrawled as if to say, "I was here, on this shore of the world." There are always a few blank pages near the end, awaiting your contribution to the conversation. Write a letter to the world while sitting on the sand. Who knows who will read it? Who knows what is on your heart to say?

American Pickers

The Starway Flea Market is like church for collectors, pickers, treasure-hunters, deal-seekers and anyone who wants to see Cape Feartown in the raw. Every Sunday morning we go to this epic yard sale that has been running for more than 20 years at this former drive-in theater. It is a kindly collision of local Wilmington-area culture, largely tourist-free. Rich, poor, black, white all buy and sell, speaking the common language of the deal. It's all here: live chickens, plants, tools, mattresses, furniture, clothes, fishing gear, books, musical instruments — it's endless. Give your children $5 and turn them loose. We have found amazing — and in some cases, quite valuable — original art for a few dollars. If you need any little thing — no matter how bizarre or seemingly made of unobtainium — say your prayers and go to the Church of Starway. You might find it for $2, once you dicker a bit. The Starway Flea Market, 2346 Carolina Beach Road. Open Sunday mornings.

Browse a Local Bookstore

What better way to spend a hot, bright, sticky summer afternoon than browsing the cool dark shelves of an air-conditioned bookstore? Old Books on Front Street is a personal favorite, with a piano patrons can play, a plethora of comfy chairs, and miles of shelves to peruse. Let your mind wander through time and space, seeking tales of summers past. With an educated and somewhat eccentric staff, one can get into a literary discussion for hours here. Thank goodness there's coffee and baked goods for sustenance. Literary walking tours available here, too. 249 N. Front St. (910) 762-6657 or www.oldbooksonfrontst.com.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK HOLMBERG

The Old Rugged Cross

Downtown's River Walk is starting to garner national attention, and it's getting improved and gussied up more and more, but one accidental monument is more "found art" than the pelican sculptures or giant Venus fly trap sculpture that mark the River Walk. The "old rugged cross" can be seen from the River Walk on the low mound of earth to the right of the new marina by the convention center on the north side. It's a cross-shaped piece of old reinforced concrete bridging or decking that a track-hoe operator dragged out of the Cape Fear River while digging out the marina in 2012. Over the next few years of shifting a half-million cubic yards of swampy muck around, the hard-hat excavation crew always planted the cross on the highest point. They moved it dozens of times. "We were happy to have something to guide us, watch over us," Tim Folkers told us in 2014. He's the one who found the cross. At the time we spoke, his Marine Corps son was in Afghanistan and the cross kept Tim strong. Now, all that's left of the mountains of sopping earth that came out of the big hole that is now a popular marina is that low mound of earth covered with weeds and wildflowers. And the old rugged cross. Give it a rub and say a prayer to keep you strong, too.

Gallery Goer

Art in Bloom founder and owner Amy Grant has raised the bar dramatically in the downtown art scene since opening Art in Bloom gallery in 2015. The 110-year-old Princess Street space, a former stable (they found more than 1,000 horseshoes when renovating the gallery) features a sophisticated mix of international and local artists in a variety of media. Small, but mighty. This gallery is the center of the scene. Art in Bloom, 210 Princess St. (484) 885-3037 or aibgallery.com.

North Carolina Room

History buffs welcome. When it's deadly hot outside, nothing beats an afternoon in the cool confines of the North Carolina Room, which focuses on the heritage, history and genealogy of Wilmington and the Cape Fear region. The massive collection, most of which is accessible for browsing, was formed from public and private libraries dating back to the original Cape Fear Library of 1760. New Hanover Public Library, 201 Chestnut St. nhclibrary.org. (910) 798-6301.

Eat + Drink

Britt's Donuts

Beachgoers have been eating Britt's Donuts by the bagful since 1939 and after one bite, you know why: They're doughnut perfection. They're small doughnuts, and salty-sweet, with the perfect texture. Don't bother getting a single doughnut, go ahead and get a half dozen in a paper bag, then go eat them with your toes in the sand. 11 Boardwalk, Carolina Beach, (910) 707-0755.

Craft Beer at Flytrap Brewery

After a long afternoon of staring at native carnivorous plants, quench your thirst with a cold glass of Rehder's Red, a scrumptious Belgian-style brew handmade at our own Flytrap Brewery at the corner of 4th and Walnut. Mike Barlas, owner and brewmeister, studied brewing in Belgium and has brought back his beermaking expertise for us to enjoy. Sit out on the patio and enjoy the open air of the growing Brooklyn Arts District, or step inside and tap your toes to tunes provided by a rotating roster of local musicians. Flytrap Brewery, 319 Walnut St. www.flytrapbrewing.com.

Brewskis with a View

Waterline Brewing has a kölsch that's really a teleportation device in a glass. Sitting outside in their biergarten watching the Cape Fear River flow by, you'll take a sip and find yourself in Germany, steps away from the Rhine River, Cologne Cathedral towering overhead, glass of Gaffel am Dam kölsch in hand. It's a subtle beer, soft and malty, lightly sweet, but still crisp and refreshing with a dry finish. On a summer evening it's ideal whether you're in Wilmington or Cologne. 721 Surry St. (910) 777-5599, www.waterlinebrewing.com.

High Southern Livin'

The secret is out: Smoke on the Water, way down on the new section of River Road, is the finest spot for outdoor riverfront cocktails in the city. And the food (from the guys behind Fork N Cork downtown) is good, too. So order some oysters and smoked-trout-and-jalapeno dip with your martini and watch the boats go by. Smoke on the Water, 3704 Watercraft Ferry Ave., Wilmington, smokeonthewaternc.com, (910) 833-5069.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK HOLMBERG

Come Hungry

Holland's Shelter Creek Restaurant is built on the water's edge with a view of the Holly Shelter Creek. This is a classic, no-nonsense old fish camp with a menu to match. Holland's is famous for its country-style (think fried) seafood, including excellent catfish and catfish stew, local oysters, deviled crabs and frog's legs for the intrepid eater. And you can make a day of it — there is a campground directly beside the restaurant with daily rentals of boats, kayaks and canoes. Holland's Shelter Creek Restaurant, 8315 Highway 53, Burgaw, (910) 259-5743.

A Bucket and a Beer

Finding someplace to go where the kids can eat and you can enjoy an adult beverage and the prices are right and the food and beer are good is a tall order. Except at Bill's Front Porch. The menu isn't huge, but let's save you some time: Order the Southern fried chicken bucket, a family-sized meal of some outstanding fried chicken along with garlic mashed potatoes, green beans and hush puppies. This is a decision you will not regret because the breading has flavor, it's crispy, and it enhances the moist chicken beneath. Now, you could go rogue and get the individual-human size (which is still a hearty meal) single fried chicken plate, which has all of the above but tosses in some slaw as a bonus. Or you could stay away from chicken altogether and order the fish and chips (a solid choice in its own right), a burger, or their beef brisket sandwich. And that Tater Tot Skillet — think cheese fries but with tater tots — is a table pleaser. For beer fans, sample the menu with a couple of flights, or, if you're keen on IPAs and hoppy beer, dive right in. There's a Mosaic IPA showing off the Mosaic hops, and a Citra Pale Ale, which takes Citra hops and stretches them across the palate. The Profusion 2.0 IPA has that big hop flavor thanks to Galaxy, Mosaic and Citra hops. But the porters (Judge's Choice, in particular) are solid options, as are the Scotch Ale and Honey Pecan Nut Brown Ale. 4238 Market St., Wilmington, www.billsfrontporch.com, (910) 762-6333, open weekdays for dinner, weekends for lunch and dinner. — JF

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW SHERMAN

Real Southern Livin'

The real South does breakfast at the K & W Cafeteria. From the vintage 1960s décor (think sky-blue leatherette banquettes) to the friendly staff, K & W (since 1937) knows a thing or two about a great Southern breakfast. Eggs, omelets, pancakes, waffles and French toast are all cooked to order. And don't get us started on the cheese grits, bacon, sausage and homemade biscuits. In short, breakfast heaven. And a price point that can't be beat. Opens at 6:30 daily. K & W Cafeteria, 3501 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, kwcafeterias.biz, (910) 762-7011.

Noteworthy Shrimp Burgers

North of Wilmington, on the Crystal Coast, a pair of drive-ins — Big Oak and El's — serve the shrimp burger: fried shrimp, slaw and fixings on a steamed hamburger bun. One problem: Those shrimp burgers are three hours away. But there's a solution: Sealevel City Gourmet. Yeah, Sealevel has some outstanding veggie and vegan dishes, but the shrimp burger is where it's at. The shrimp are fried just right, the slaw is crispy, and the house-made chips (with kimchi ranch dip) make it a meal to come back for. 1015 S. Kerr Ave., Wilmington, (910) 833-7193, www.sealevelcitygourmet.com.

Good Eatin'

While you're there, take advantage of Southport's Yacht Basin Provision Company — aka Provision Company, aka ProCo — that serves up peel-and-eat shrimp, grouper salad, grilled tuna sandwiches, burgers, and a delightful cucumber salad on the Intracoastal Waterway. Beer and wine are on the honor

system. Your food comes served on paper plates. The servers yell your name to find your table. It's dive-y, delicious and perfect for locals and visitors. 130 Yacht Basin Drive, Southport, NC, (910) 457-0654, www.provisioncompany.com.

More Good Eatin'

For the best ice cream around, head to Flava's, a Southport fixture. Cups, cones, sundaes, shakes and ice cream sandwiches take a bit of the bite out of even the hottest summer day. Chocolate and vanilla ice cream sit in the freezer case alongside fruit-laced ice cream and specialty flavors. Flava's, 318 W. Bay St., Southport, (910) 457-5150, www.flavasicecream.com.

Night life

After Dark

How about a little late-night artsy fun? If you're looking for some spoken word poetry, some drumming, some on-the-edge art, Bottega is where the soul of the Brooklyn Arts District shakes down, offering wine, live poetry readings and music, and local art on display. Pick a warm summer evening and stay until long after sunset, meeting the people who make Wilmington's art scene what it is — vibrant, alive, and entirely our own. 723 N 4th St. (910) 399-4872

Ghosts of Old Wilmington

This is a spooky city. When evening rolls in on the Port City, the dead roll over. That chill on the back of your neck is no coincidence. Did you find 10 cents in front of the Dime House? Consider yourself flattered; that means Emma likes you. We dare you to stand at the grave of a man who was buried alive in Colonial times and not lean in to listen for his cries. With ghosts of pirates and soldiers and victims of yellow fever up and down these cobbled streets, it's hard to not make at least one friend from the other side. The tours, penned by a ghost story aficionado and lay historian, stand alongside any ghost tour in Charleston or Savannah. Nightly at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m., the tour is 90 minutes of walking and resting at each stop. You will be transfixed by their talented and witchy costumed guides. Tickets: $13 (Adult) $9 (Children). Call (910) 794-1866 or visit www.hollywoodnc.com, or stop by the Black Cat Shoppe, 8 Market St.

Tidal Walk

It's called a negative tide, when the sun and the moon conspire to pull the ocean's pants down. Revealed are our glorious sandbars that run practically the entire coastline of our island- and cape-filled state. Our favorite is to walk the sandbars of Wrightsville Beach. You're 30, 40 yards offshore, walking in ankle- to knee-deep emerald water, right there with the fishes, shells, skates and sand dollars. One of our brave writers did the whole 6 miles once. You can check the paper, the internet or your tide watch or app. Even when it's just a regular dead low tide, the sandbars are walkable. And P.S.: Low tide is the time to ride your bikes at the water line when the sand is firm and flat.

Sunset Cruise

Finish the day on a slow boat ride through Banks Channel and Motts Creek. If you've never seen Wrightsville Beach from the water, this sunset cruise is the place to do it from. Bring your favorite adult beverage (it makes the half-hour ecology and history narration that much better) and end the day (or start the night) the right way. Wrightsville Beach Scenic Tours, docked at the Blockade Runner Hotel, 275 Waynick Blvd., Wrightsville Beach. $30/person. Call to reserve, (910) 200-4002. Boat departs nightly at 6:30 p.m.

Kick Back Like a Parrothead

Well, almost. The closest thing to an authentic Margaritaville experience is a trip to the Ocean Grill and Tiki Bar. Chill out on the dock overlooking the water, eat a fish taco, sip on a drink with an umbrella in it, and let the ocean breeze take away all your cares. If you time your visit right, you might even see the full moon rise from the horizon. Perfection. Thursday nights from 7–9 p.m. feature live music from local favorite like Benji Hughes, The Dew Drops, Da Howlies, and Onward, Soldiers. Ocean Grill and Tiki Bar, Golden Sands Hotel, 1211 S. Lake Park Blvd., Carolina Beach. Music line-up at www.oceangrilltiki.com.

The Big Screen

Take in a free movie at the Carolina Beach Lake Park. Each Sunday from May – August at dusk, the town of Carolina Beach invites everyone to bring a lawn chair and settle in for a free family movie at the lake. It's the perfect way to unwind after a day of frolicking in the waves. Hungry? Grab take-out at local favorites Uncle Vinny's Pizzeria or Flaming Amy's Burrito Barn. Movie listings are family friendly, including *The Jungle Book, The Sandlot, Finding Dory, Minions*, and more. BYOP (popcorn). Listings can be found at www.whatsonwilmington.com.

Front Street Blues

Pick an afternoon or evening to stroll down the pulsing heart-path of our city, Front Street, but this time pause and listen to the music made by our own busking brigade of street musicians. We have real talent on our streets – there's Clark Anderson, for example, whose golden voice once resonated on albums and in motion picture soundtracks ("Give Me Something Real" was the featured track in the film *Living Out Loud*). Now he can be heard on the corner of Market and Front, his version of "Amazing Grace" still neck-hair-raising and hauntingly beautiful. Or Glenn, the sad-eyed saxophonist, who blows his horn over near Princess Street. He's been playing his instrument since middle school, and now makes his living bringing sweet melodic renditions of jazz standards to passers-by. Then there's Papa Soul, who sits on his amplifier in an alcove across from Chop's Deli, with a permanent wide grin on his sunglassed face and an electric guitar which sends blue notes soaring into the stratosphere above the sounds of traffic. On rare nights you might hear the Green Roses, named for a certain spy who sank in the river during the Civil War, bringing an eclectic blend of acoustic freedom-fusion-folk to the people of their city. Bring a few dollars to fill up their busk baskets, and pause, and listen to the talent which gives our streets their own vibrant and unique musical life. – JW

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW SHERMAN

Outdoor Adventure

Call of the Wild

Ev-Henwood Nature Preserve has plenty of room to roam. This 174-acre nature preserve now owned by UNCW was once a family farm, before that a commercial turpentine distillery, and before that, virgin woodlands on Town Creek. All of its history is on display, from the yet-to-be-renovated family home to the fading scars of the turpentine production to the few bald cypress trees towering over the marshy forest. The forest here is a bit of an anomaly for southeastern North Carolina, as the pines fell victim to the turpentine production and to building shelters and structures on the land, so you'll find more hardwoods here — oak, hickory, maple, gum, the occasional beech tree — and

a number of camellias near the homestead. During summer, you might spot a small alligator in the headwaters of Town Creek or in one of the ponds. It's open daily dawn to dusk, but can be a little tricky to find. That said, when you want a day hike that feels more wild than a park but less involved than a backpacking excursion, head here. 6150 Rock Creek Road NE, near Town Creek, www.uncw.edu, dawn–dusk daily. — JF

Shark Tank

At the southernmost drivable point of the Cape Fear Peninsula perches a world-class aquarium, surrounded by the waters whose secrets it reveals. Spend a morning or afternoon (we recommend two hours minimum) learning about the life that lives beneath the lapping waters. Fill with child-like wonder as you press your hands against the thick glass. Highlights include an albino alligator named Luna, jellyfish galore, seahorses, sharks, plenty of fish, and a touch tank with horseshoe crabs. The enormous Cape Fear Habitat tank features marine life from our own region. Afterward, head to the beach adjacent to the aquarium and dive into the waters you now know a little more about. Tickets: $10.95 (Adult), $9.95 (Senior and Military), $8.95 (Children). Free for NC Aquarium Society Members and children under 2. Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 900 Loggerhead Road, Kure Beach, www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher.

That's a Mighty Big Shark Tooth

Have you been tracking Mary Lee, the great white shark, as she cruises along the Atlantic coast? Take a trip by kayak to Shark's Tooth Island, a dredge spoil in the Cape Fear River known for its ample supply of shark's teeth. Who knows, after a storm you might even uncover a megalodon tooth. Put in before low tide at River Road Park. Call Don Harty at Mahanaim Adventures (910) 547-8252 or Angela Marshall at Kayak Carolina (910) 458-9171 to rent boats or take a guided tour.

Fish at the Kure Beach Pier

Few experiences rival the pure pleasure of casting a line in the water and reeling in a fish. The perfect spot is the family-friendly, alcohol-free Kure Beach Fishing Pier, one of the oldest piers, originally built in 1923, that juts out 711 feet into the Atlantic Ocean. Even if the fish aren't biting, the view is worth it. Stroll inside the gift shop for trinkets, ice cream and a game of foosball on their classic Bonzini table. Open 24 hours a day. Free to walk on, $8 blanket pier license if fishing. One rod per fisherperson, 100 Atlantic Ave., Kure Beach.

Collect Shells on the Beach With a Child

Get a piece of twine as long as a shoelace. Tie a knot at the bottom. Walk along the shore together and find shells with a hole in them. Thread the string through the hole. When the string is full, hang it on the porch as a memento of your time together.

Paddle Faster, I Hear Banjos!

Go for a paddle on the Northeast Branch of the Cape Fear River. Grab your kayak or small boat and head to Lanes Ferry, where you can put in beside Lanes Ferry Dock and Grill and paddle, bird watch, fish, or just waste a little time on the dark waters of the Cape Fear. The boat ramp is small but easy to use, and it's simple to put in on a kayak or canoe. Plus there's a little restaurant nearby where you can get a cheap and delicious cheeseburger, a fried bologna sandwich (smothered in Duke's mayo) that's to die for, and some iced tea to refresh you after an afternoon on the river, 11016 NC Hwy 201, Rocky Point, (910) 602-7110, www.lanesferry.com, $2-$5.

The River Wild

Visiting Wilmington's River Walk for a meal and sunset on the Cape Fear River is a spectacular way to spend an evening, but a day paddling on it is even better. The protector of this beautiful river, the source of Wilmington's drinking water, is Cape Fear River Watch. This stalwart team of scientists, educators and environmental advocates hosts numerous community events, runs eco-camps for local kids, organizes monthly cleanups, and hosts a speaker series. One of their most popular events is their third Saturday paddle series. Kemp Burdette, the Cape Fear River Keeper, leads these open-to-the-public trips to some of the most pristine and important areas of the river and its tributaries. In addition to having a great day on the water, you'll learn about the history of the river and current efforts to protect Wilmington's most important natural resource.

Upcoming trips include an excursion to the Black River, home to some of the oldest living trees on Earth; gentle floats down Rice's Creek and Town Creek to see water lilies, blue herons, great egrets (and perhaps an alligator); a trip to Wilmington's Eagle Island via Sturgeon Creek; and a lazy trip down shady Holly Shelter Creek (followed by a catfish lunch at Holland's Shelter Creek Restaurant in Burgaw — sit near the jackalope).

Visiting from out of town? Cape Fear River Watch will rent you a kayak or canoe and gear when you make your reservation. These trips are popular, so sign up early. www.capefearriverwatch.org, choose News & Events, then Saturday Paddle Series. 617 Surry St. (910) 762–5606. — VH

PHOTOGRAPH BY VIRGINIA HOLMAN

Chuck 'em

Rather than "ruining a good walk," as the saying goes, try something different and play a round of disc golf with a few close friends. There are several good courses in the area (Arrowhead Park, 720 Arnold Road, Wilmington, and Castle Hayne Park, 4700 Old Ave., Castle Hayne, come to mind) and a beginner disc will set you back only a few bucks at a used sporting goods store. Give a toss at the chain-trap target. If it's not for you, at least now you're equipped for your next game of Ultimate.

Sunrise at the Beach

It sounds like a cliché thing to do, and maybe it is, but rather than hit the gym or run "The Loop" (both clichés in their own right), try a long walk on the beach between Johnny Mercer and Oceanic piers. The rhythm of the waves and sound of your feet in the sand are meditation in motion. As day comes on, the sky brightens, the birds begin to call, and surfers populate the waves. Do this a few times this summer and you'll find yourself falling back in love with where you live or calling a Realtor to permanently relocate. There's just something about those early mornings. . .

Sunrise Paddle to Masonboro Island

If you've never experienced the simple wonder of being the first to greet the new day and the only one around to welcome it, grab your paddle and head to Trail's End boat ramp off of Masonboro Loop Road while it's still dark. Splash your kayak and paddle across the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW), through weaving corridors of *Spartina alterniflora* to the barrier island's back beach. Then raise your thermos of coffee and join the gulls and skimmers in toasting the new day, as the blazing ball rises from the sea to the east. A day rarely begins better than this. Plus, you know what's jumping on a morning paddle. Dolphins. Keep your eyes peeled! Trail's End Park, 613 Trails End Road, Wilmington.

Feathered Friends

Osprey, great egret, white ibis, barred owl, bald eagle: What do these have in common? Birds you might see on a local birding expedition. Join Wild Bird & Garden's Jill Peleuses and Dave Weesner on one of their many birding adventures. Upcoming trips include events at Airlie Gardens, Orton Pond, Southport Town Creek and Masonboro Island. Visit wildbirdgardeninc.com for a list of upcoming avian adventures. Or book a birding kayak tour with Mannheim Adventures, mahanaimadventures.com.

Redneck Riviera

We can quibble over whether Carolina Beach deserves the nickname "Redneck Riviera," or even if that's a bad thing. One thing is for certain: The essence of this largely lived-on island can be nicely experienced by driving your four-wheeler onto its northernmost beach, Freeman Park. Forget parking meters and those day-wrecking parking tickets. Just load up your surfboards, fishing poles, picnic basket, beer or cocktails (yup, it's A-OK here), dogs, firewood, sleeping bags, tents and buy your day and night beach pass for $30. ($50 for holidays. Us locals know when to buy yearlong passes for $75.) Just drive right onto the beach and find a spot, dang it!

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEANETTE DEPEW

You can just sit there and unwind (as long as the next truck over isn't blaring country or hippity-hop), or you can go for a walkabout and meet the wild mix of people who flock to this spot. On a nice summer day without too much wind, it will be packed. You'll hear a half-dozen languages, although Southern Drawl and Spanish predominate, particularly past the point in the channel. Overall, this is one of the friendliest places on the planet. If you need some bait, fishing advice, a tow or a beer, you'll find it. When it gets dark the line of campfires makes it feel like an old military encampment. If you walk by slowly and hold your mouth right, you'll likely be invited inside the firelight for a sampling from the grill and some instant friendship.

But if you don't hold your mouth right, well, you might find a fist in it. It's not called the Redneck Riviera for nothing. And don't expect the porta-potties to be practically perfect in every way, Mary Poppins. The surfing is pretty good by the pier, and the bar on the third floor of that structure — appropriately called High Tide — has a decent pool table, fantastic outdoor seating and a bar dog that licks the salt off your face. If you can't find a great time here, you need to head north. And don't come back, dang it. — MH

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW SHERMAN

Outlaw Garden Tour

You've likely heard of Wilmington's Secret Garden tour (each September), but why not enjoy walking the plain-view outlaw garden tour downtown right now? We're talking right-of-way gardens (or outlaw gardens), those strips of land owned by the city between the sidewalks and the streets. Homeowners are supposed to keep them mowed and raked, but the city unofficially winks and nods at residents who dig in and really beautify. It's a bright, rich tradition planted and fertilized by the unsinkable Dolly Pearson, who died at age 102 three years ago. She was the one whose go-ahead-and-arrest-me attitude convinced the city that an old lady beautifying the 5th Street median (at Nun Street) might be a fine thing after all. So wander the streets historic downtown and see the love and pride many residents lavish on their right-of-way gardens — flowers, shrubs, herbs, trees, stonework and sculpture. A must-see is the intersection of S. 2nd and Ann streets. It's largely the work of Joe Pawlick, who lives at 302 S. 2nd. Not only has he done his sides of the streets, he's crossed Ann Street and beautified the other corners, including a sweet and sunny cactus garden. As Joe will tell you, "It's harder to be a criminal in a city that's pretty." — MH

Garden Life

Garden of Earthly Delights

As locals, we take Airlie Gardens for granted. It's in our backyard, we drive by it for a scenic distraction on the way to the beach, and my wife and I always say, "We should go to Airlie," but we almost never do. That changed this spring when we were there for a beer event. That night, the riotous blocks of color on display as gardens and azaleas bloomed; the fresh, salty air; and the way the evening light played on the Airlie Oak told us it was time to join so we could go more often. Airlie's a special place. Acclaimed folk artist Minnie Evans worked here for years, hanging her drawings and paintings from the gate and selling them to the first interested buyers; there's a chapel built of bottles in her honor as a permanent art exhibit near the main entrance to the grounds. The gardens as we know them today have been around since the early 1900s, though parts of the garden — the oak, Lebanon Chapel — have been around for longer. That oak is 500 years old (or thereabouts, it's not polite to ask) and spreads across the lawn like a textbook example of what a live oak should be: glorious. There are miles of walking paths, a cemetery, sculpture, artists (expect to see more than a few plein air painters or watercolor artists while you're there), a pier on Bradley Creek, and summer concert series that happens on the first and third Fridays of the month, May to September. A gorgeous getaway anytime, Airlie is one of those places you can take the kids, take a hand-holding stroll, take a glimpse at dozens of species of birds, or just take a break from the rest of Wilmington for an hour or two in this sanctuary of beauty. Tickets: $9 (Adult), $5 (Military and New Hanover County residents), $3 (Ages 4-12), 300 Airlie Road, Wilmington, (910) 798-7700, www.airliegardens.org. — JF

Old River Farms

This third-generation, 400-acre family farm 15 miles north of Wilmington has something for everyone — a spectacular garden shop with herbs, vegetable plants, succulents and flowers; a fine selection of farm-raised hormone-free Angus beef; and pick-your-own strawberries, as well as educational field trips dedicated to teaching children about North Carolina farming in an outdoor classroom setting. Old River Farms, 8711 Old River Road, Burgaw, oldriverfarmsnc.com, (910) 616-5884.

Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden

The fabled Venus fly trap, a carnivorous plant (don't worry — they prefer ants and spiders) is unique to this area: They can only be found within a 60-mile radius of Wilmington. Take your kids on a trip to the Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden and see them in the wild. And look but don't touch: In 2014 North Carolina passed a law declaring fly-trap theft a felony. Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden, Piney Ridge Nature Preserve, 3800 Canterbury Road, Wilmington. Open daily; (910) 341-7852.

Take a Hike . . .

No, seriously. Pull on your walking shoes and wander down to Carolina Beach State Park, where miles of trails (like Sugarloaf, Flytrap and Oak Toe) meander through cathedral-like stands of longleaf pine and turkey oak, or walk the coastline of the Masonboro Sound. Bring a water bottle and a snack, a notebook or a camera, and let your creativity flourish in this peaceful place of nature. Sketch or capture on film the shimmering shapes light makes when it trickles down through the canopy and spills onto the sugar-white sand of the forest floor, and remember that our whole region once looked like this, not long ago. Summer may offer a chance to see Venus fly traps in the wild; look for white flowers! Carolina Beach State Park, 1010 State Park Road, Carolina Beach, (910) 458-8206, www.ncparks.gov/carolina-beach-state-park.

History Buff

This Old House Museum

You can take your pick of antebellum mansion, Colonial dame or vicky Victorian. The house museums abound. Built on the eve of the Civil War, the Bellamy Mansion and restored Slave Quarters offer a spectacular look at antebellum architecture and gardens. On the corner of 5th and Market streets, you can't miss it. Time your visit right because this old house also plays host to a variety of upper crust events and weddings. Tickets: $12 (Adult), $10 (Senior), $6 (Student), 503 Market St. (910) 251-3700, www.bellamymansion.org.

Circa 1770, the Burgwin-Wright House was built in the Georgian style on top of the old city jail! If that doesn't strike your fancy, the lush gardens ripe with pomegranate and fig trees will. Tickets: $12 (Adult), $10 (Senior), $6 (Student), 224 Market St. (910) 762-0570, www.burgwinwrighthouse.com.

Two blocks south on 3rd and Orange streets is the Italianate Latimer House and home to the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society. This mesmerizing example of upper-class Victorian life offers a tour, gardens and the honor of having once been home to the painter Elisabeth Chant. Tickets: $12 (Adult), $10 (Senior), $6 (Student), Passport ticket to all three houses for $28. 126 S. Third St. (910) 762-0492, www.lcfhs.org/latimer-house.

Love Is a Battlefield

At Moore's Creek National Battlefield, take a short stroll in the woods and learn a little Revolutionary War history. By way of a preview, the story goes like this: In 1776, British loyalists were handed a defeat there by the Sons of Liberty. A thousand or so patriots met there to attack the loyalist troops, many of whom were armed with giant broadswords, as the loyalists made their way to Southport to help Gen. Cornwallis quell the rebel activities there. Spoiler alert: The patriots win. 40 Patriots Hill Drive, Currie, (910) 283-5591, www.nps.gov/mocr.

Love is a Battleship

Across the river from downtown rests our most famous landmark: the *USS North Carolina*, which served in every major battle in the Pacific theater during World War II. What better way to reach a ship than by water? Hop on the Bizzy Bee Water Taxi at the foot of Market Street and be transported across the river that gives this region its name – the largest river in North Carolina, and the only one that touches the Atlantic directly. If you visit in July, lucky you. Stay for a live theatrical production of *Mister Roberts* on board the *USS North Carolina*! (Tickets $15–50, www.thalian.org). Our 4th of July fireworks display is best seen from the battleship or adjoining park. Battleship open from 8 am–8 pm daily; Adult tickets $14 with discounts for Seniors and Military, Child tickets $6. Water Taxi runs daily, 10 am –5 pm; tickets $8 round-trip. If you prefer to drive, cross over the river on one of our bridges to 1 Battleship Road NE.

Legacy Architectural Salvage

Looking for an old fireplace mantel or a pedestal sink? Legacy Architectural Salvage, a shop run by the Historic Wilmington Foundation, offers an ever-changing selection of old-house details, including period window frames, newel posts and balusters – even doorknobs. Proceeds benefit the Historic Wilmington Foundation. Donations are welcome and tax-deductible. Legacy Architectural Salvage, 1831-B Dawson St. (behind Stevens Hardware), historicwilmington.org, (910) 444-1751.

Poplar Grove Plantation

For six generations (1795-1971), Poplar Grove was home to the Foy family, French Huguenots who came to America in the 1670s. This elegant Greek Revival mansion, a former sweet potato and peanut plantation, offers a compelling glimpse of a pre-Civil War slaveholding family's working farm life in North Carolina. Meet farm animals and horses at the stables. Tours daily. Special event programming varies. Tickets: $5–12. Stop by during the Wednesday farmers market (8 a.m. – 1 p.m.) to take the tour for free. Poplar Grove Plantation, 10200 Highway 17 North, Wilmington, poplargrove.org, (910) 686-9518.

PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIAM IRVINE

Colonial Ghosts

One of the most interesting drives just out of town is down the Old River Road (Route 133) toward Southport. The road parallels the Cape Fear's western bank through woods of longleaf pine and ancient live oaks. It is here that you can find the ghostly remains of St. Philip's Anglican Church (circa 1740), the only remaining structure in Colonial Brunswick Town, a failed but important settlement and the capital of the North Carolina colony for 30 years, until it was burned by the British in 1776.

Laid out in 1726 by Col. Maurice Moore with help from his brother Robert, the owner of nearby Orton Plantation, Brunswick soon became a prosperous shipping port for tar, pitch and lumber for the royal navy. The town was attacked and burned by the Spanish in 1748, but quickly restored and rebuilt. Two successive royal governors moved to Brunswick, and soon an elegant church, St. Philip's, was under construction. But the growing city of Wilmington upriver soon rivaled Brunswick's port, and its shipping business declined. The royal governor then moved the courts, council and post office to Wilmington in the late 1730s. The town was abandoned by 1776, when British Redcoats came ashore and burned it to the ground. Only the shell of St. Philip's church remained. In 1830 the land and ruins were sold to the owners of Orton Plantation. It became a state historic site in 1952.

St. Philip's remains a magnificent ruin. Built of English brick 3 feet thick, it served as his majesty's Chapel in the colony. (Royal governors were given elevated pews here.) The tall chancel windows are flanked by doorways, the side walls have four windows each, 15 feet high and 7 feet wide. There are still scars on the walls from the cannonballs of Union ships during the Civil War. Bring bug spray. Listen for the sound of the old church bell; this hallowed ground is notoriously haunted. St. Philip's Church, Brunswick Town, 8884 St. Philip's Road SE, Winnabow, (910) 371-6613, nchistoricsites.org. – WI

First in Flight

As the summer travel season begins, our favorite funny girl remembers her first adventure in the air

By Celia Rivenbark

Photographs by Ned Leary

I'm the anti-hoarder, incapable of holding onto anything that's not completely useful in the here-and-now. Which is why it was a little shocking to discover an old United Airlines flight bag recently in a trunk in my attic. An otherwise empty trunk, it should be noted.

Beige vinyl, embossed with the United logo circa 1967 and once capable of holding a change of clothes — if properly rolled — the bag triggered memories of what leisurely air travel used to be.

That bag was free merch, swag, a gimme, for having been inconvenienced as a tot of age 10 while flying for the very first time across the country.

My mama and daddy were odd because they valued trips to places where we didn't even have any relatives. The question we got over and over again after announcing a weeklong vacation trip to Los Angeles from our little 900-square-foot home in Duplin County was, "Who y'all visiting?"

"Nobody. We just want to go," was met with uncomprehending stares and some suspicion. I imagined allegations of uppity behavior would be leveled upon our return, but it didn't matter. We were going to see Universal Studios, Disneyland, maybe even the real Clampett mansion set. Whee doggies!

Reservations were made, a flight was booked and then, well, something went wrong but was righted in the most wonderful way. Which is to say coach had been overbooked, so we were quickly and efficiently upgraded to empty seats in first class from Atlanta to L.A. Four glorious hours of pampering unfolded before us like a map to the movie stars' homes.

Having never flown before, my sister, my parents and I didn't appreciate how very special this was at first, but we acclimated pretty quickly once the steamed hand towels and warmed terrycloth booties showed up. My sister and I felt momentarily sorry for the coach class passengers who shuffled by us as we dipped sugar cookies into cut-glass goblets of milk. Pity. By the time my smoking mother was presented with personalized matches (yes, embossed with the original occupant's name but such a nice gesture!), we were only too happy to sink into the commodious seats, stretch our legs like Gumby without hitting anything else, and accept our perfectly medium-rare lamb chops wearing paper frills (!) and accompanied by a foreign condiment called "mint jelly." (I may have been only 10 but I never forget a meal. Ask anyone.)

After lunch, we were swaddled in blankets that smelled of lavender and served softened ice cream studded with buttery macadamia nuts just because. My mother, dressed for air travel in a wool boucle suit and high heels, struck a match that had been personalized for a rich person, lit her Bel-Air and reclined her seat, closing her eyes and smiling softly as if this was the life she had expected all along.

Not a single policeman ripped us from our seats and dragged us flailing and bloodied down the aisle to make room for incoming crew.

Oh, what a difference five decades makes!

Compare and contrast with my most recent vacation air travel experience. And the one before that. And, yes, the one before that. In each case, flights were (in order) postponed, delayed by 10 hours or outright canceled.

There is always trouble with "weather" despite sunny skies or "inbound equipment," which is airlinespeak for "broken airplane," and we have responded as a nation by giving up wool boucle suits in favor of yoga pants with "Juicy" in script across the butt (ladies) and T-shirts that say "My other ride's your mama" (gents). Yes, well.

Now it must be noted that despite TSA screens that have been so invasive as to make me feel the agent and I would be considered married in certain counties in South Carolina, I have an unnatural obsession with our lovely ILM airport. So much so that when those commercials come on with Wilson Center director Shane Fernando, local chef Keith Rhodes and economic development guru Jenni Harris crowing "We are ILM," I am overcome with jealousy. You see, I am ILM. I am the ambassadress of our little airport, constantly telling people how adorably user-friendly, clean and well-staffed it is and how (fun fact) you can get the best Bloody Mary in Wilmington at the airport's tiny bar. (Not those idiotic versions with shrimp and bacon and fried grits cakes hanging off 'em; I'm talking about a normal person's Bloody Mary with just the right amount of heat and maybe a celery rib garnish.)

I love everything about our small airport and bristle when newcomers, as they always do, ask: "How will I ever find the right baggage carousel?" Yes, yes. Very funny.

There have been marvelous moments in the in-between years from that momentous first flight to my most recent a few weeks ago. And here's where I must tell you that not only was the flight home from New York canceled, we had to fly to Raleigh and then the airline paid $536 for a taxi to take us to Wilmington, where our car had spent an uneventful four days. One wonders about this business model.

The truth is I love air travel, even when it goes wrong, which is just about all the time lately. The exhilaration of being 40,000 feet up in the sky trumps every ounce of frustration and anxiety that may have led to this moment. From my window seat, a glorious view ensures that any lingering bad feelings dissipate as quickly as a contrail. Poof.

Back here on Earth, when I'm outside hanging the wash on my clothesline (I'm country, remember?), I never fail to look up longingly when a plane noisily climbs overhead from ILM, just 2 miles away. Sheets puddling at my feet, I offer a quick prayer for traveling mercies for the passengers until the plane disappears from sight.

Best-selling humorist Celia Rivenbark is well grounded in the Port City – but ready to fly at the drop of a hat.

The Home Well-Traveled

Changed lives beget changing lives – an inspired family moves to Wilmington with a suitcase full of stories

By Isabel Zermani · Photographs by Rick Ricozzi

To call the Greens travel buffs would be an understatement. A quick tour around their newly built home on Stokley Drive with an unmistakable international vibe will turn the conversation from a sunrise at Machu Picchu to wildlife in South Africa to Angkor Wat in Cambodia. It's tough to keep up with these globetrotters.

Martin and Lou Green began traveling when their daughter was 2 years old. Their first trip? The Bahamas. Now, they've been to 38 countries. Traveling became a family tradition for the Greens of Greensboro, especially after their children's high school graduations — the Green family graduation gift is a life-changing solo trip to anywhere in the world.

Their first daughter, Ashlie, backpacked Europe. Their son, Dustin, "wanted a truck," says Martin good-humoredly. But believing in the horizon-expanding power of experiencing unfamiliar worlds, Martin doubled down. "No, you're getting a trip," he said. Dustin backpacked in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. "When he came back it was like someone had flipped a switch on my child," remembers Martin.

Six months later he died in a car accident. A student at N.C. State with ambitions to study architecture, Dustin caught a ride on campus with a friend. Two minutes after taking off, an oncoming car struck their car, throwing Dustin from the vehicle, causing fatal injuries. The family was devastated.

That was 15 years ago. It forever changed the Greens and, subsequently, many others.

"You're at a crossroads," Martin describes it, "where you're either going to stick it out or give up." A man of enduring faith, Martin and his family turned their grief into service to others by launching "Dustin's GreenHouse," a nonprofit service-learning program for high school students that culminates with international adventure travel. The Greens want other young people to experience that "flipped switch" like Dustin.

Scuba diving in the Galapagos, protecting rhinos in South Africa from poachers by trimming their horns, dropping into a shark-viewing cage off the coast of Cape Town: These are not your average trips. Dustin's GreenHouse selects 10 to 20 students from Guilford County

schools that fall into the gray area — not at-risk, not exceptional — that hold untapped potential. The students train for six to eight months in preparation, developing leadership skills and "self-actualization," then the group goes abroad for two to three weeks. Past iteneraries have included Guatemala, Uganda, Peru, Romania and Hungary. In July they will travel to an old favorite, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Dustin's trip.

Martin coaches the students through their fear. He will gently but firmly say, "You've got to get in the shark cage." Or let an anaconda be wrapped around their shoulders. "I've had kids I didn't think would do it, do it," says Martin. "Once they've done *that*, they can do anything."

Just as important is the night they spend in the slums. "It's the worst night you'll ever have," but it's worth it. One night in Third World conditions leaves a lasting impression on American students for whom global poverty is an unknown. Often, says Martin, the students come back from the trip changed, wanting to get into education, global outreach or medicine.

The Greens' travels inspired the design, finishings and furnishings of their new Wilmington home. International elements emerge in both the lifestyle and look Martin and Lou desired for their beach home, where they are retiring from careers in the software industry. "Our home is a smart home," Martin says and shows his phone screen. "I can control every room: music, lights, temperature, security." He's got Dave Matthews playing in the living room and Jack Johnson upstairs.

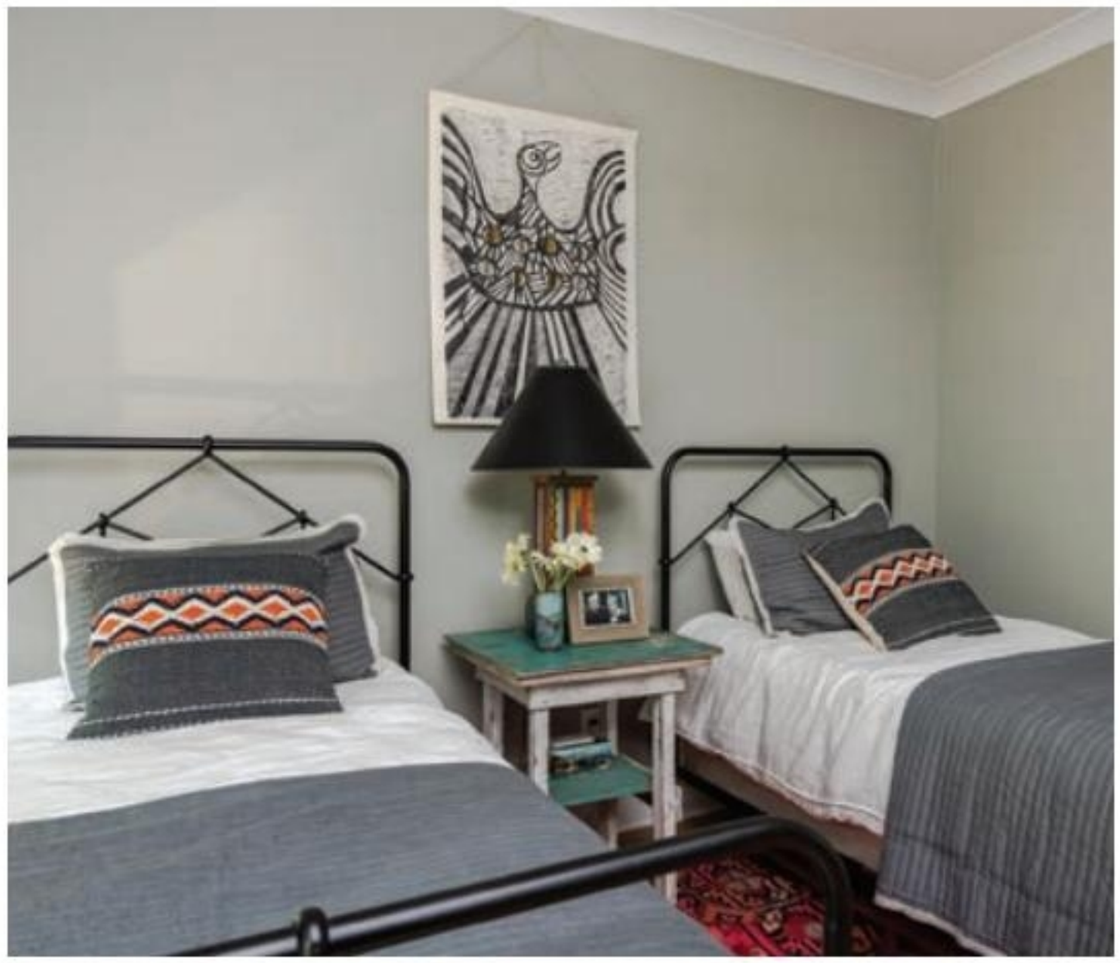
First to join the team when building this distinctive home was Suzanne Trecco, an interior designer who was born and raised in Brazil but has called Wilmington home for nearly 20 years. Trecco once lived in the Amazon for six months and arrived in Wilmington by sailboat. She and the Greens were soulmates. Trecco recommended local builder David James, who brought on architect Matt Williard, and the team was assembled.

Stokley Drive is one of those little locals-only throughways, making it one of the most charming. It also has the benefit of arriving at the foot of Fish House Grill, The Bridge Tender, and, of course, gorgeous views of the Intracoastal Waterway. The lots on Stokley are small, challenging Williard to "grab as much square footage as I legally can." James and Trecco had to become masters of efficiency as well, creating the best use of the living space and making a small home still feel posh.

You'll notice the home is of a similar outline as two other coastal cottages on the block, but Trecco's non-traditional color scheme and Williard's update transform it. The initial plan to renovate the existing house "was thrown out pretty early," says James who weighed the costs of the much needed repairs and "8-foot ceilings — where do you draw the line?" with the benefits of a brand new home. Willard rethought a new design within the old footprint, added a hip roof and created a taller jewel box home that still fits in on Stokley.

Going from a 5,500-square-foot house in Greensboro to a 2,200-square-foot home (on a much smaller lot) left no room for error. "We began looking at houses in California; their footprints are very tight," says Trecco who came up with a winning, though expensive, idea: a large ipe privacy fence. The fence slats in nautical horizontals allow for light and air to pass through, but enclose the back and side yards, nearly doubling the ground floor living space.

"Martin and I always had the idea of Costa Rican-style outdoor living," says Trecco. An outdoor kitchen, pizza oven and a Green Egg smoker will



serve up something good on the stunning live-edge dining table the Greens bought in White River, South Africa. "This set the stage" for the look of the house, says Trecco, who first saw a photo of it. "They sent me that pic — Oh, game on." It weighs 400 pounds.

Inside, a local Cypress root pulled out of the Cape Fear River was customized into a dining table (by Coastal Live Edge) with a circular glass top. Above, a hand-painted ceramic wall plaque by South African artist Anton Bosch depicts a tree with its branches reaching high. The poetics of the tree rising above and root table below are no accident. Trecco created this space. "It's about family," she says. A circular chandelier above is fashioned with strings like prayer beads of milky glass.

"A house is a story," says Trecco, whose background in set design for film influences how she tells those stories. "A curation of special pieces," she says. Some so special that the house was designed with them in mind, like the Chinese kimono encased in archival acrylic. Martin's grandfather, head of the New York library who traveled the world assisting libraries, "was given this kimono by the Emperor of China in the early 1900s," says Martin.

With a lifetime full of travels, textiles, ceramics and mementos, Trecco whittled their collection down for this house. "Everything has to have a lot of emotion in it." She and Martin laugh that they could decorate an entire other house or follow through on their idea to host a local pop-up shop. (Fingers crossed it's the second one.)

A house with two masters, downstairs and upstairs, showcases two different footprints and style finishes from the team. Some elements carry over, like the Ro Sham Beaux beaded chandeliers over the freestanding tubs, but the downstairs master boasts a steam shower and classic white subway tile, while upstairs feels more like spa and tree house combined.

The texture of natural wood plays a big role for both James and Trecco, who sourced raw wood beams from Asheville for the ceilings, and antique cabinet doors from Egypt. A large raw timber post in the living room by the staircase was Trecco's idea, one that gave James reservations, but "then when it's there — it works." Similarly, the beams on the bedroom ceiling initially looked too thick for James, who suggested splitting them in half to reduce the scale. Tempering, collaborating, the team rallied to create these unique looks.

"David's woodworking people were amazing," says Martin, giving a tour of these details. The powder room sink features a "raw edge walnut free-floating sink shelf," says Trecco, and a wall of reflective pewter tile in place of a mirror. Raw edge shelving in the kitchen plays nicely against high-end painted cabinets in slate gray with Piatra gray quartz countertops and island.

With a mesmerizing mix of international textures and proportions (tall and thin doorways, a steep staircase) and a cool paint palate with warm raw woods, James and Trecco achieve both luxury and efficiency. Everything you want, nothing you don't. When you travel as much as the Greens, you learn how to pack.

"These guys are obviously entrepreneurs," Trecco explains the command station/lounge area upstairs. "These guys don't use a desk." Two super comfy chairs and ottomans sit side by side facing a custom media wall — smart enough to Skype to Peru, relaxed enough to watch *Minions* with the grandchildren. Office, be gone.

Glass doors in the upstairs shiplap front wall — Trecco's one ode to coastal — open to a covered porch shaded by an old magnolia, the centerpiece of the front yard. A walkway of pavers spaced with Mexican stones offers a Zen quality to a grassless front yard. "I don't want to mow anything," says Martin with a laugh. Native plants and azalea bushes provide all the greenery one needs. (Brock Chisholm with Flora Landscapes was indispensable, they agree.) The downstairs master bedroom opens to the exterior privacy fence trained with climbing jasmine, fragrant this time of year, but the team is still looking to install a living plant wall by the open kitchen out back. (Wilmington doesn't yet have a company that maintains green walls — any takers?)

Art abounds in the Greens' house. African and Peruvian vessels are on display in the custom built-ins in the living room, plus family mementos like "a bird's nest from my daughter's wedding," says Martin. A small sampling of the art collection includes paintings by George Pocheptsov, Goxwa and a work on paper by Victor Delfin, Peru's most famous artist. The Greens met the 90-year-old Delfin while staying in his family's bed and breakfast.

Not everything is from far and away; Trecco chose rugs from the High Point furniture market to add some color. And some items are from Dustin's room: a folk art painted lamp and table, a fishing basket-style backpack. Though brand new, the Greens' house already feels like home.

Wilmington is a safe harbor for travelers and entrepreneurs alike. Undoubtedly, the Greens will find themselves in good company for their next chapter. "The world is a book," says Martin "You're only going to see one page of that book — are you kidding me? You've got to see it all."

For information on Dustin's GreenHouse visit www.dustinsgreenhouse.org. To see more from architect Matt Williard, visit www.mwwilliard.com, or David James, visit www.wilmingtonbuilder.com, or Suzanne Couri Trecco, call (910) 264-0248 or follow @suzannetreccodesigns on Instagram. For custom furnature by Jon McDow at Coastal Live Edge, call (910) 617-0976.

Bring It! DOWNTOWN

SHOP AND EXPLORE over 150 unique shops, galleries, boutiques and salons promoting local and regional specialties.

DINE OR HAVE A DRINK at over 100 restaurants and pubs, many wth outdoor terraces or sidewalk cafe seating.

DOWNTOWN WILMINGTON showcases the history of the town and promotes the vibrancy of the Cape Fear River.

PARK FREE FOR THE FIRST HOUR IN CITY DECKS AND CATCH A RIDE ON OUR FREE TROLLEY!

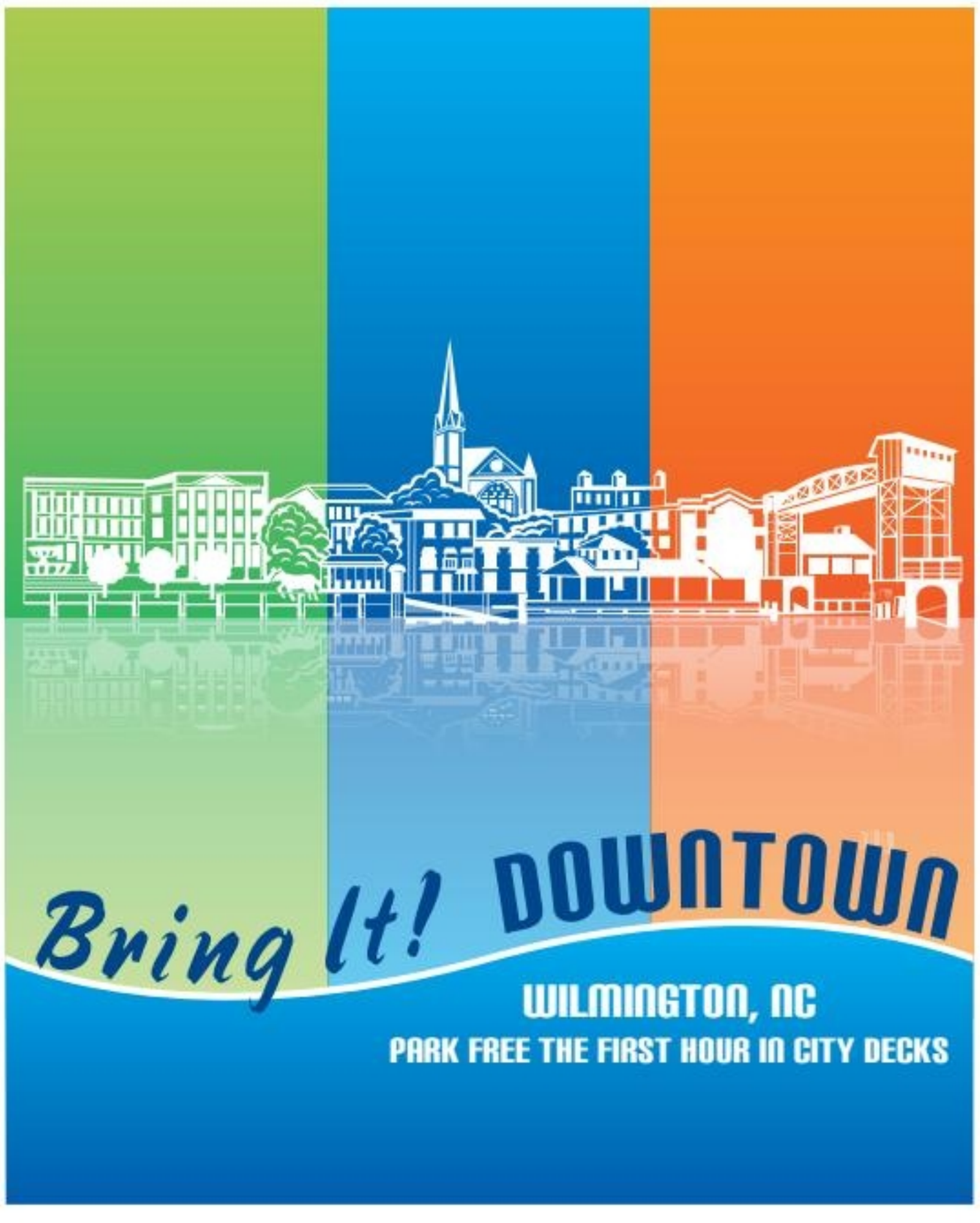
WWW.BRINGITDOWNTOWN.COM

TOP TOAD
www.toptoad.com

Margaritaville · COSTA · Peace Frogs Live Fun · Do Good · simply southern COLLECTION

ALL TEES NOW $2 OFF AND ALL SWEATSHIRTS $10 OFF!

Cotton Exchange | Front Street | Independence Mall
910.343.9245 | 910.769.3676 | 910.784.0444

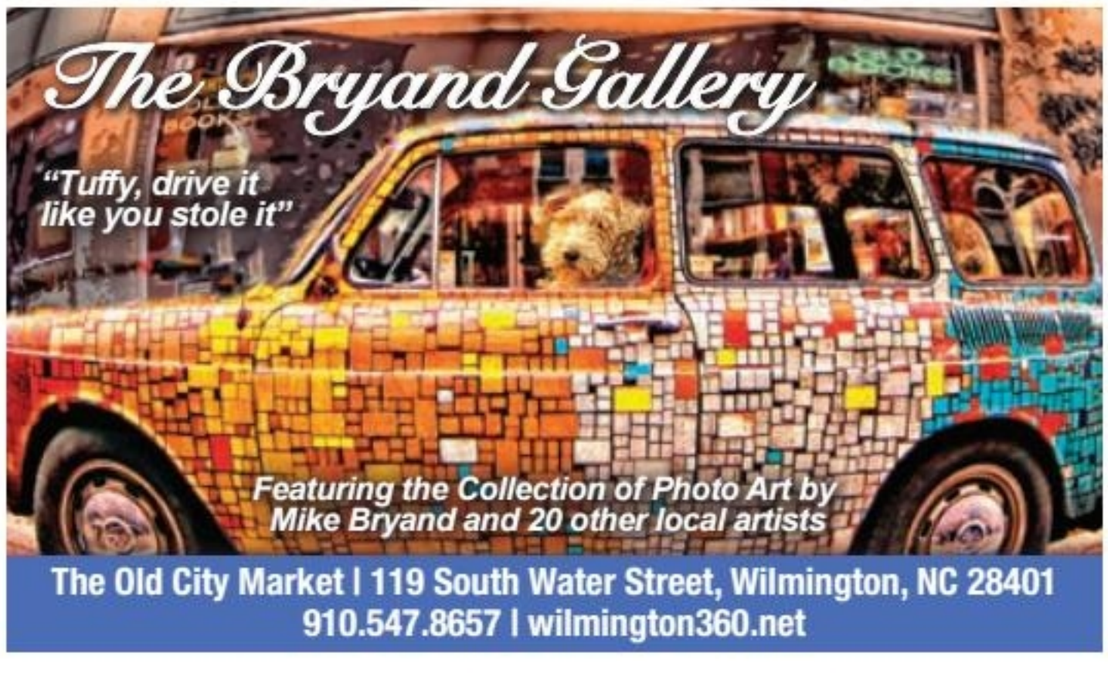


Going LOCAL
ARTISAN GIFTS

Downtown's newest art gallery and shop featuring over 75 diverse local artisans.

11-5 Mon-Thurs
11-7 Fri-Sat
12-5 Sun

(910) 769-4833
208 N. Front St.
www.goinglocalnc.com


The Bryand Gallery
"Tuffy, drive it like you stole it"
Featuring the Collection of Photo Art by Mike Bryand and 20 other local artists
The Old City Market | 119 South Water Street, Wilmington, NC 28401
910.547.8657 | wilmington360.net

PAWS & CLAWS
ANIMAL HOSPITAL, P.C.

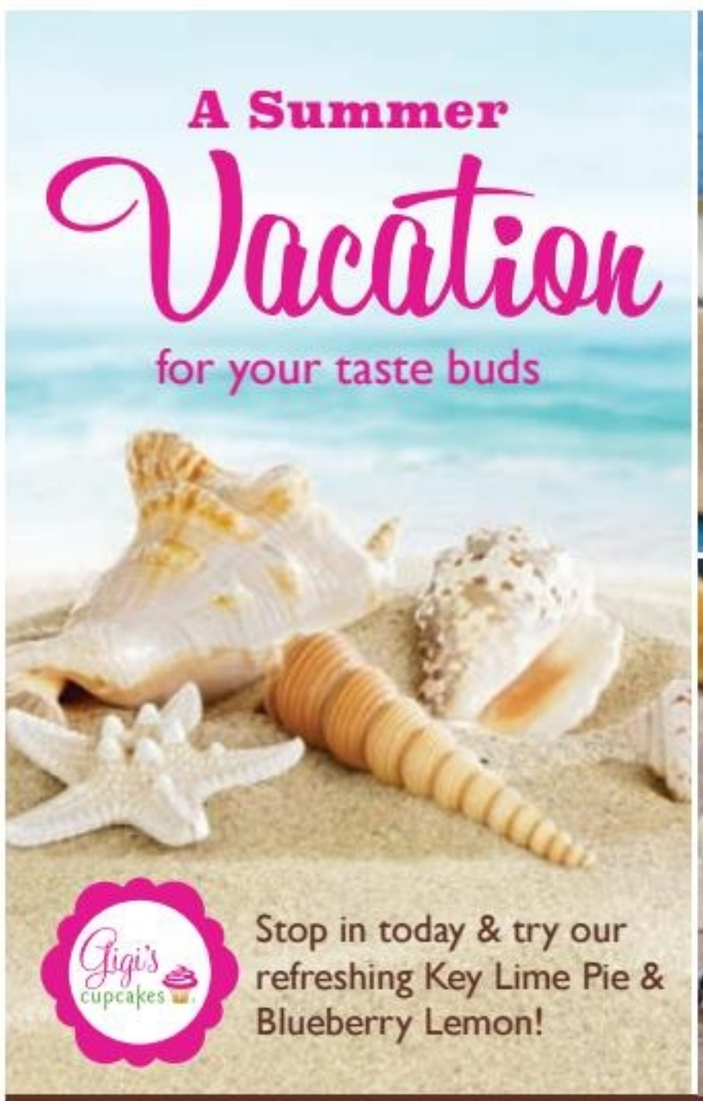
DR. SAM SMITH, DR. STEPHEN ANDERSON
& DR. NATALIE-ANNE REINHART

Practicing in Preventive & Internal Medicine,
Advanced Dentistry and Surgery for
Cats, Dogs and Exotics

"Devoted Vets for Beloved Pets"

5333 OLEANDER DRIVE | BESIDE TIDAL CREEK CO-OP
910.399.3768 | INFO@PAWSCLAWSAH.COM
WWW.PAWSCLAWSAH.COM

BES BUTLER'S ELECTRIC SUPPLY
2013 Castle St. Wilmington, NC 28403
910.762.3345 | www.butlerselectricsupply.com
Monday - Friday from 8am-5pm



Book Your Next Event at
GigisCupcakesUSA.com
WILMINGTON • 336 S. College Road • Wilmington, NC 28403 • 910.769.7678
MON - THURS 10 am - 8 pm • FRI - SAT 10 am - 9 pm • SUN Noon - 6 pm

ALMANAC

June

By Ash Alder

In June as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them.

–Aldo Leopold

The mockingbird sings 100 songs. Ballads of honeysuckle and wild rose. Lady's slipper. Skipper and milkweed. Plump strawberries. Cottontail and mophead hydrangeas.

June is here, he whistles, prelude to a queue of tunes about cukes and pole beans, creaky tire swings, hives full of honey. His morning song, syrupy as the last spring breeze, is interrupted by a string of sharp rasps. The tune tells how to scold a crow.

As fox kits scuffle in a pine-fringed wood, the sweep of a tail sends a troupe of dandelion seeds swirling into the dreamy green yonder. Summer is near, the mockingbird calls. We can feel the truth of it.

Cicada skin clings to the grooved bark of an ancient willow. On the solstice, a little girl finds it. The mockingbird watches her carry it home. Summer is here, the bird sings. The girl places the empty vessel on her windowsill, hums a tune as sunlight washes over the golden amulet.

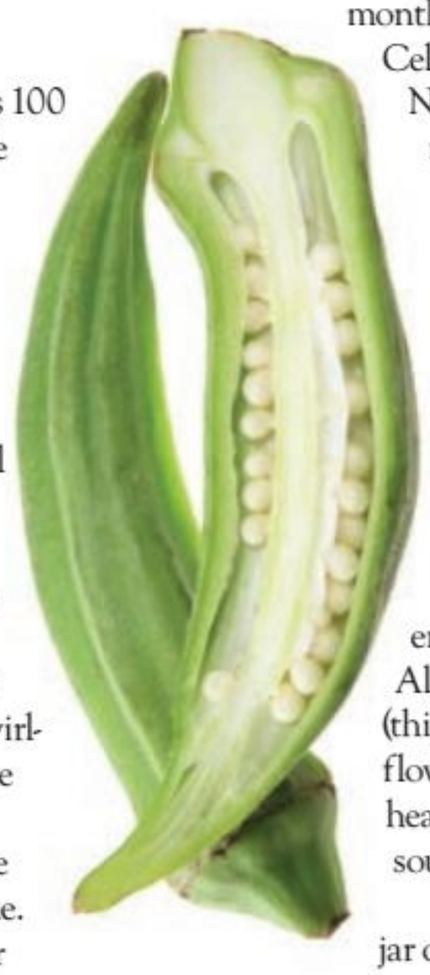
Evening unfolds. Fireflies dance beneath the sugar maple and a resident toad joins the cricket symphony. Mockingbird sleeps, yet the music swells into the night.

Magic of Midsummer

The days grow longer. On Friday, June 9, a full Strawberry Moon illuminates the tidy spirals of golden hay dotting a nearby pasture. For Algonquin tribes, this moon announced ripe fruit to be gathered. Because the hives now hum heavy, the June moon is also called the Mead Moon. Honey, water and yeast. Patience. Sip slowly the magic of this golden season.

Perhaps stemming from the ancient Druid belief that summer solstice symbolizes the "wedding of Heaven and Earth," many consider June an auspicious month for marriage. This year, Solstice falls on Tuesday, June 20. Celebrate the longest day of the year with sacred fire and dance. Now until Dec. 21, the days are getting shorter. Sip slowly the magic of these golden hours.

When the sun sets on Friday, June 23 – a new moon – bonfires will crackle in the spirit of Saint John's Eve. On this night, ancient Celts powdered their eyelids with fern spores in hopes of seeing the wee nature spirits who dance on the threshold between worlds.



Lady's Fingers

Some like it hot. Some like it cold. Whichever your preference, fresh okra is one of this month's most delicious offerings. Also called lady's fingers, okra is a member of the mallow family (think cotton, hollyhock and hibiscus). The edible seedpods of this flowering plant are rich in vitamins and minerals that promote healthy vision, skin and immune system. Because it's an excellent source of fiber, okra also promotes healthy digestion.

Father's Day falls on Sunday, June 18. Say "I love you" with a jar of pickled okra – local and, perhaps, with a kick.

Everlasting Love

When you send someone roses – the birth flower of June – the color of the petals tells all. Red reads romance. Pink for gratitude. White or yellow for friendship. Orange for passion.

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine.

–William Shakespeare, "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

CoolSweats

www.coolsweatsatthebeach.com

Krazy Larry
Wooden Ships
AG Denim
Indigenous
Hard Tail
Mod-O-Doc
Bella Dahl
Kinross
Wilt

Wilmington
Pinehurst

1051 Military Cutoff Rd.
910.509.0273

Mododoc

OVER 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE WILMINGTON AREA

In Uptown Market, the premier merchant marketplace near Porter's Neck

8006 Market Street | Mon-Sat: 10am-6pm | Sun: 12pm-6pm
910.512.3277 | www.envieinteriors.com

leisure world
casual furniture

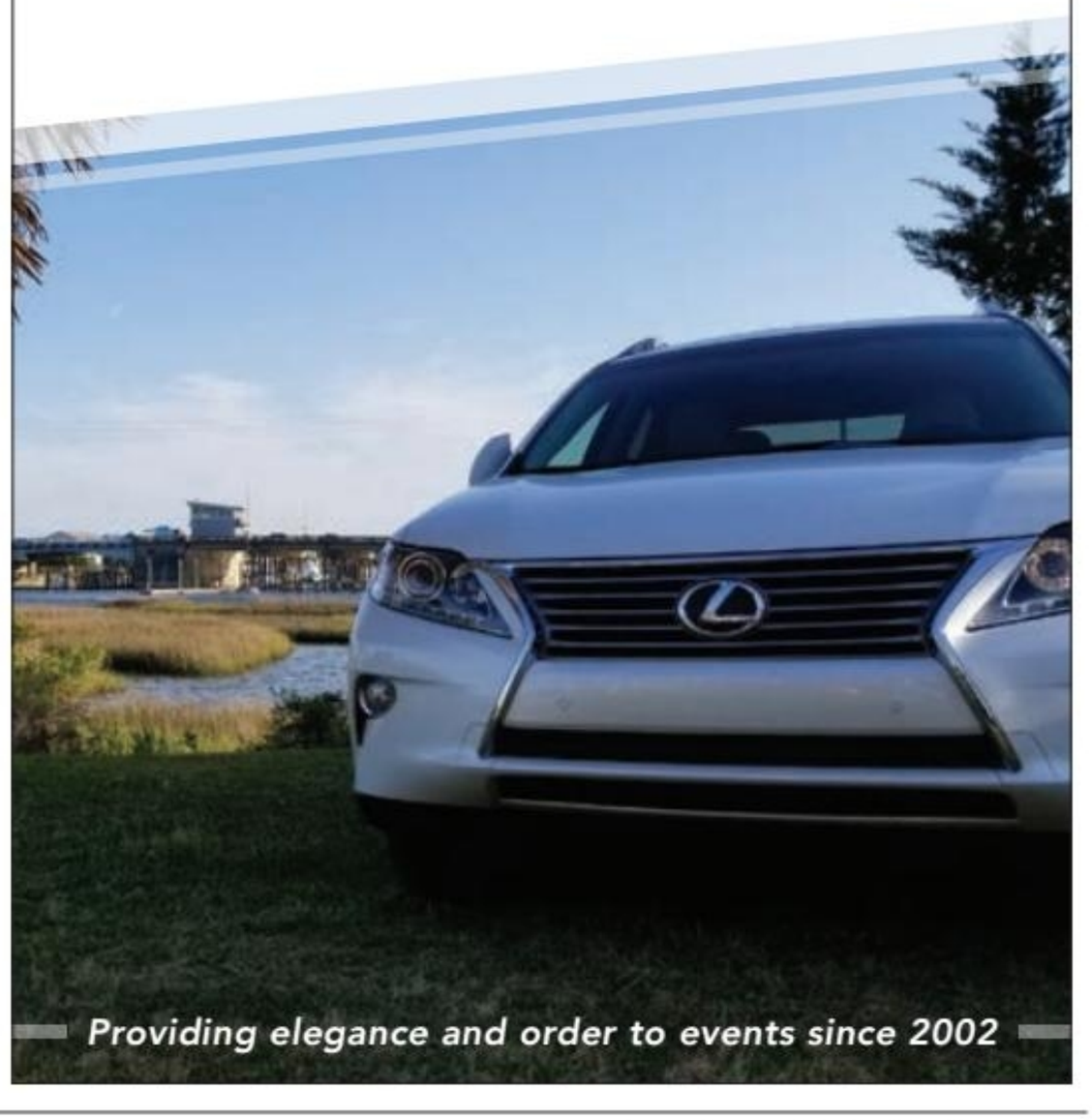
offering the finest selection of quality
outdoor living furniture & accessories

6629 market street | wilmington, nc 28405 | 910.392.7748

910.352.5547

PORTCITYPARKING@GMAIL.COM
WILMINGTONVALET.COM

PORT CITY PARKING



Providing elegance and order to events since 2002

Arts Calendar

NC Blueberry Festival

6/16-17

Whoopi Goldberg Live

6/23

Double Sprint Triathlon

6/24

6/2–7/22 Live Theater
7 p.m. TheatreNOW presents Celia Rivenbark's *The Best of Celia* adapted for stage by Zach Hanner. Admission: $40 (including three-course dinner) or $18-22 (show only). TheatreNOW, 19 S. Tenth St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 399-3now or www.theatrewilmington.com.

6/3 Carolina Beach Music Festival
11 a.m. Full day of sun and music on the beach. Entertainment by BlackWater Rhythm & Blues Band, The Band of Oz and Jim Quick & Coastline. Admission: $25–30. Carolina Beach Boardwalk, Cape Fear Blvd. Info: (910) 458-8434 or www.pleasureislandnc.org.

6/4–11 Port City Music Festival
Schedule available online. A week of great music and world-class performing artists. Artists include violinist Luigi Mazzocchi, mezzo-soprano Kyle Engler, Pianist Daniel Lau and music director/cellist Stephen Framil. Admission: Free. Various locations in Wilmington. Info: (910) 512-6251 or www.portcitymusicfestival.org.

6/5 Symphony Golf Classic
8 a.m. Annual golf tournament/fundraiser hosted by the Wilmington Symphony. Registration includes breakfast and snacks, luncheon and awards ceremony. Admission: $275/person; $1,000/four players. Proceeds benefit the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra and its youth education programs. Country Club of Landfall, Nicklaus Course, 800 Sun Runner Place, Wilmington. Info: (910) 791-9262 or www.wilmington-symphony.org/golf-classic.html.

6/6 Ultimate Book Launch
7 p.m. Join author David Gessner for the launch of his new book, *Ultimate Glory*, about a decade well-spent in the cult-ish sport of ultimate frisbee. Wrightsville Beach Brewery, 6201 Oleander Drive. http://billanddavescocktailhour.com/ultimate-glory/.

6/7–25 Live Theater
8 p.m. & 3 p.m. (Sundays) Opera house Theatre Company kicks off its summer season with the Andrew Lloyd Webber rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar* directed by Suellen Yates and choreographed by Kendra Goehring-Garrett. June 7-11, 16-18, and 23-25. Tickets: $27-32. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut St. Call (910) 632-2285 or www.thalianhall.org.

6/8–25 Live Theater
8 p.m. (Thursday–Saturday) & 3 p.m. (Sunday). Big Dawg Productions presents *The Laramie Project*, a moving collage written in the aftermath of the brutal hate crimes and murder of Matthew Shepard of Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998. Written by Moisés Kaufman & the Tectonic Theater Project from over 200 interviews conducted in Laramie during the trial, this important piece of theater reminds us how low humanity can sink and how high it can rise. Cape Fear Playhouse, 613 Castle St. Tickets: $20–22. Call (910) 367-5237 or visit www.bigdaw-gproductions.org.

6/9 & 10 Last Comic Standing
7 p.m. on Friday and 11 p.m. on Saturday. See comedian Rich Vos from NBC's reality TV show *Last Comic Standing* do a set in the Port City. Dead Crow Comedy Club, 265 N. Front St. (910) 399-1492 or visit www.deadcrowcomedy.com

6/10 Battleship 101
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Volunteers stationed throughout the WWII ship engage visitors in the areas of gunnery, radar, sickbay, galley and engineering. Admission: $6–12. Battleship NC, 1 Battleship Road, Wilmington. Info: (910) 251-5797 or www.battleshipnc.com.

6/9–11 Ink & Arms Expo
2–10 p.m. (Friday); 11 a.m. –10 p.m. (Saturday); 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Sunday). Three-day expo merging the tattoo culture with a love of firearms and gunsmithing. Show attendees will have the opportunity to get tattooed, converse with manufacturers and dealers, participate in seminars, demonstrations, and a tattoo contest. Admission: $20–40. Wilmington Convention Center, 10 Convention Center Drive, Wilmington. Info: (609) 338-9349 or www.inkandarms.com.

6/14 Flag Day
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Celebrate Flag Day at the Battleship and raise your own American flag up the ship's halyards with help from members of the American Legion post 10 Honor Guard. Battleship NC, 1 Battleship Road, Wilmington. Info: (910) 251-5807 or www.battleshipnc.com.

6/16–18 Spring Flea at BAC
Friday, 3 p.m.–9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. –5 p.m., and Sunday, 12 – 5 p.m. Get your thrift on. Admission: $5 Food trucks, cash bar, music. Brooklyn Arts Center. 516 N. Fourth St. Call (910) 538-2939 or visit www.brooklynartsnc.com

ICED TEAS

PORT CITY JAVA
---- est. 1995 | Wilmington, NC ----

Apricot Tea | Green Tea | Black Tea

Add a flavor to give it your own twist.

Visit Salt MAGAZINE online

www.SaltMagazineNC.com

LIFE & HOME

RE-ECO DESIGN

EARTH ☼ SEA INSPIRED
ECO–CHIC BOUTIQUE
FEATURING A FAMILY OF
FOUR LOCAL ARTISTS

5323 OLEANDER DR. (910) 399–7068
RE–ECO.COM

GALLIGAN CHIROPRACTIC

FOR PETS, AND PEOPLE TOO!

Helping you with the biomechanics of your horse, the agility of your dog, the suppleness of your cat and everyone's health.

Dr. Gail Galligan, BA, DC, AVCA

Inducted into Animal Chiropractic Hall of Fame in 2015

1221 Floral Pkwy #103 • Wilmington, NC 28403
910.790.4575 • galliganchiropractic.com

AVCA
AMERICAN VETERINARY CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION
Recognized as the World Leader in Animal Chiropractic

SPRING ARBOR
Assisted Living & Memory Care

A Trusted Advisor

Guiding you along the way

When faced with the challenges of caring for an older family member, many families don't know where to turn. Spring Arbor can help you through this difficult process. From performing daily tasks such as medication management, bathing, or dressing, to the challenges of Alzheimer's or memory loss, we are here to be your guide.

HHHUNT

Call or come by for your tour today!
809 John D Barry Dr, Wilmington, NC 28412
910.799.4999
www.SpringArborLiving.com

6/16 & 17 — NC Blueberry Festival

8:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. (Friday); 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. (Saturday). Annual festival celebrating the cultivation of blueberries in the Southeast. Includes BBQ cook-off, recipe contest, car show, antique show and sale, street fair, 5K run, baked goods sale, and live musical entertainment. Courthouse Square, 100 S. Wright St., Burgaw. Info: (910) 259-2007 or www.ncblueberryfestival.com.

6/16 & 17 — Seaglass Salvage Market

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Friday); 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Saturday). Once a month indoor/outdoor market filled with up cycled, recycled and repurposed furniture and home décor items, salvage pieces perfect for DIY projects, yard and garden décor, jewelry and local honey. Admission: Free. 1987 Andrew Jackson Highway (Hwy 74/76), Leland. Info: www.seaglasssalvagemarket.com.

6/17 — Reiki Certification

9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Learn about the self-practice of Reiki, which encourages relaxation, emotional well-being and harmony of the body. Level 1 degree certification. Admission: $125–150. Wilmington Yoga Center, 5329 Oleander Drive, Suite 200, Wilmington. Info: (910) 350-0234 or wilmingtonyogacenter.com.

6/20 — Carolina Panther Luke Kuechly

6–9 p.m. Come celebrate local athletes at the Star News Varsity awards banquet and enjoy a presentation by Carolina Panthers linebacker Luke Kuechly. Admission: $50 (includes dinner). Info: Call (910) 343-2015 or visit www.BestofStarNewsVarsity.com.

6/21 — Youth Program

10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Shells! Explore the colors and shapes of shells. Learn about the animals that once used these shells as their home. Find the many places that the museum uses shells in an "I Spy" activity. Light refreshments provided. Admission: Free. Wrightsville Beach, 303 W. Salisbury St., Wrightsville Beach. Info: (910) 256-2569 or wbmuseumofhistory.com.

6/23 — Fourth Friday

6–9 p.m. Downtown galleries, studios and art spaces open their doors to the public in an after-hours celebration of art and culture. Admission: Free. Various venues in Wilmington. Info: (910) 343-0998 or www.artscouncilofwilmington.org.

6/23 — Whoopi Goldberg Live

7:30 p.m. Award-winning actor, best-selling author, producer and humanitarian Whoopi Goldberg performs live at the Wilson Center. Admission: $48–150. Wilson Center, 703 N. Third St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 362-7999 or www.capefearstage.com.

6/23 & 24 — Celebrate the Legacy

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Celebrate ships named North Carolina and enjoy a major display of Civil War, WWII and submarine arms, clothing and equipment from costumed collectors and submarine veterans. Admission: $6–12. Battleship NC, 1 Battleship Road, Wilmington. Info: (910) 251-5807 or www.battleshipnc.com.

6/23 & 24 — Barbershop Harmony

7:30 p.m. Enjoy "Silhouettes," a night of performance by the Cape Fear Chordsman, their 29th annual consecutive show. Special guests include: Bill Willets of Jolly Mon Jams, The Harmony Belles, and Supersonic. Kenyan Auditorium, 601 S. College Road. Tickets: $15 (Adults), $10 (K–12). Call (910) 541-1256 or visit CapeFearChordsmen.com

6/23–25 — Yoga Teacher Training

5–9 p.m. (Friday); 12–7:30 p.m. (Saturday); 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Sunday). Kunga yoga teacher training for seniors with Jamie Annette. Admission: $325–375. Wilmington Yoga Center, 5329 Oleander Drive, Suite 200, Wilmington. Info: (910) 350-0234 or wilmingtonyogacenter.com.

6/23–25 — Cape Fear Blues Festival

Annual music festival featuring live concerts, a blues workshop, all-day blues jam and more. Various venues, Market Street & Fifth Ave., Wilmington. Info: (910) 350-8822 or www.capefearblues.org/festival.

6/24 — Double Sprint Triathlon

7 a.m. Super sprint triathlon featuring a 375-meter swim, 1.5 mile run, and 11-mile bike ride followed by another 1.5 mile run and 375-meter swim. Admission: $55–85. Carolina Beach. Info: www.setupevents.com.

6/24 — Yoga Posture Clinic

9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Two-hour posture clinic for back pain that breaks down some of the foundational yoga postures that encourage optimal health and safety to your spine. Admission: $35–40. Wilmington Yoga Center, 5329 Oleander Drive, Suite 200, Wilmington. Info: (910) 350-0234 or wilmingtonyogacenter.com.

6/25 — The Pointer Sisters

7:30 p.m. R&B and pop music sensations The Pointer Sisters perform live this Sunday evening. With hits like "Fire," "He's So Shy," and "So Excited," two Grammy awards and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, grabbing a ticket to this show should be "Automatic." Admission: $36–105. Wilson Center, 703 N. Third St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 362-7999 or www.capefearstage.com.

6/30 — Travis Tritt

8 p.m. Devoted fans of this CMA award-winning artist well remember his 1990 breakthrough debut album "Country Club." There's only more to love about Travis Tritt. You won't even miss the cowboy hat. Admission: $30–65. Wilson

Center, 703 N. Third St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 362-7999 or www.capefearstage.com.

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Monday — Wrightsville Farmers Market
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Curbside beach market offering a variety of fresh, locally grown produce, baked goods, plants and unique arts and crafts. Seawater Lane, Wrightsville Beach. Info: (910) 256-7925 or www.townofwrightsvillebeach.com.

Monday – Wednesday — Cinematique Films
7 p.m. Independent, classic and foreign films screened in historic Thalian Hall. Check online for updated listings and special screenings. Admission: $7. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut St., Wilmington. Info/Tickets: (910) 632-2285 or www.thalianhall.org.

Tuesday — Wine Tasting
6–8 p.m. Free wine tasting hosted by a wine professional plus wine and small plate specials all night. Admission: Free. The Fortunate Glass, 29 S. Front St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 399-4292 or www.fortunateglasswinebar.com.

Tuesday — Cape Fear Blues Jam
8 p.m. A unique gathering of the area's finest blues musicians. Bring your instrument and join the fun. No cover charge. The Rusty Nail, 1310 S. Fifth Ave. Info: (910) 251-1888 or www.capefearblues.org.

Wednesday — Ogden Farmers Market
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Local farmers, producers and artisans sell fresh fruits, veggies, plants, eggs, cheese, meat, honey, baked goods, wine, bath products and more. Ogden Park, 615 Ogden Park Drive, Wilmington. Info: (910) 538-6223 or www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/events-calendar/ogden-farmers-market.

Wednesday — Poplar Grove Farmers Market
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Wednesday); 3–7 p.m. (Thursday). Open-air market held on the front lawn of historic Poplar Grove Plantation offering fresh produce, plants, herbs, baked goods and handmade artisan crafts. Poplar Grove Plantation, 10200 US Highway 17 N., Wilmington. Info: (910) 395-5999 or www.poplargrove.org/farmers-market.

Wednesday — T'ai Chi at CAM
12:30–1:30 p.m. Qigong (Practicing the Breath of Life) with Martha Gregory. Open to beginner and experienced participants. Admission: $5–8. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 S. 17th St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 395-5999 or www.cameronartmuseum.org.

Wednesday — Wednesday Echo
7:30–11:30 p.m. Weekly singer/songwriter open mic night that welcomes all genres of music. Each person will have 3–6 songs. Palm Room, 11 E. Salisbury St., Wrightsville Beach. Info: (910) 509-3040.

Thursday — Yoga at the CAM
12–1 p.m. Join in a soothing retreat sure to charge you up while you relax in a beautiful, comfortable setting. Sessions are ongoing and are open to beginner and experienced participants. Admission: $5–8. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 S. 17th St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 395-5999 or www.cameronartmuseum.org.

Thursday — Ocean Grill Tiki Bar Concerts
7–9 p.m. Kick back on the pier and enjoy some local music and a cold brew at this Carolina Beach favorite. June concerts include: Benji Hughes, Jess Stockton & Dream Machine, and The Beau Rikkis. Golden Sands Motel, 1211 S. Lake Park Blvd., Carolina Beach. www.oceangrilltiki.com

Friday & Saturday — Dinner Theater
7 p.m. TheatreNOW presents Celia Rivenbark's *The Best of Celia* adapted for stage by Zach Hanner. Admission: $18–40. TheatreNOW, 19 S. Tenth St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 399-3now or www.theatrewilmington.com.

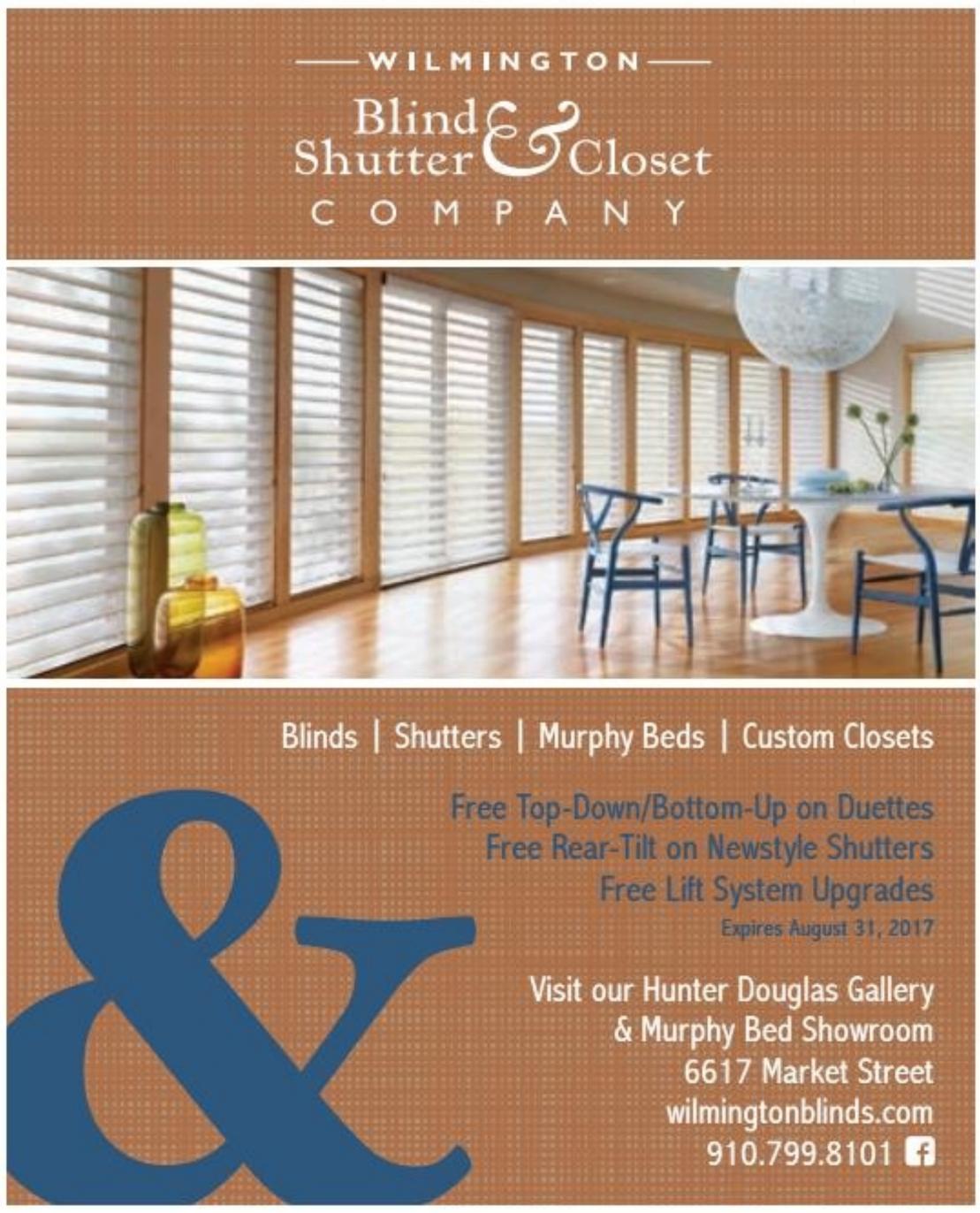
Friday — Downtown Sundown Concerts
5–11 p.m. Head down to the riverfront and kick your weekend of with a free concert each Friday night. Tribute bands for the Allman Brothers, Sublime and even the 1980s will get you groovin' week after week. Rain or shine. Beer or wine. Riverfront Park, 5 N. Water St. http://www.wilmingtondowntown.com/events/downtownsundown

Saturday — Carolina Beach Farmers Market
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Outdoor "island-style" market featuring live music and local growers, producers and artisans selling fresh local produce, wines meats, baked goods, herbal products and handmade crafts. Carolina Beach Lake Park, Highway 421 & Atlanta Ave., Carolina Beach. Info: (910) 458-2977 or www.carolinabeachfarmersmarket.com.

Saturday — Riverfront Farmers Market
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Curbside market featuring local farmers, producers, artisans, crafters and live music along the banks of the Cape Fear River. Riverfront Park, N. Water St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 538-6223 or www.wilmingtondowntown.com/events/farmers-market.

Sunday — Bluewater Waterfront Music
4–7 p.m. Summer concerts on the waterfront patio. Band schedule available online. Admission: Free. Bluewater Waterfront Grill, 4 Marina St., Wrightsville Beach. Info: (910) 256-8500 or www.bluewaterdining.com.

To add a calendar event, please contact calendar@saltmagazinenc.com. Events must be submitted by the first of the month, one month prior to the event.



palm garden
A Lilly Pulitzer® Signature Store
Mon-Sat 10-9, Sun 12-6
Mayfaire Town Center • 6804 Main Street • Wilmington, NC • 910.256.9984
www.shoppalmgarden.com

Cinematique
of wilmington

FILM SERIES

The best in first run films from all over the world!

Tickets:

910.632.2285 • 800.523.2820
www.thalianhall.org

Presented by THCPA and WHQR

Visit thalianhall.org for upcomming films.

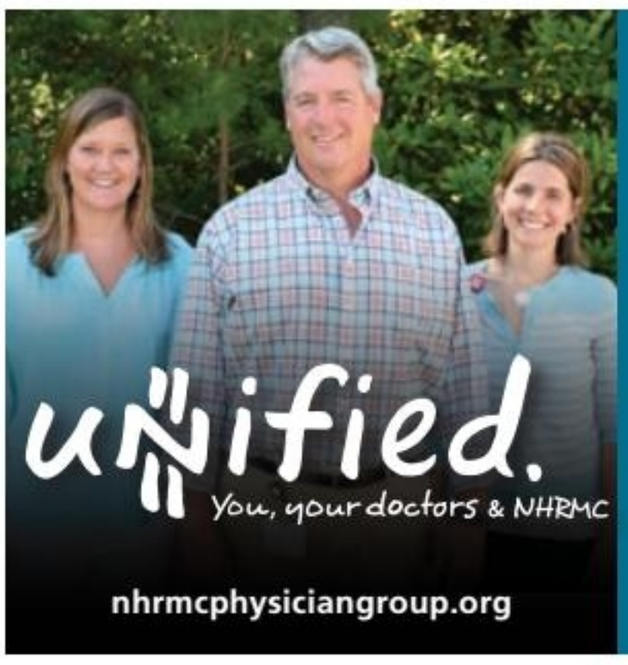
elegance with an Edge

Meadowlark
Women's Clothing & Accessories

THE FORUM
1125-J MILITARY CUTOFF RD
WILMINGTON, NC
910.679.4474

STORE HOURS:
MON-SAT I 10AM-6PM

MEADOWLARKSHOP.NET
MEADOWLARK SHOP
MEADOWLARK_SHOP



Wrightsville Beach Family Medicine

is welcoming new patients, newborn to geriatric.

Same day appointments available

1721 Allens Lane
Suite 100
Wilmington, NC 28403

Call 910.344.8900

NHRMC Physician Group

KISMET
Gourmet Toffee

Cranberry Almond
Coconut Macadamia
Butter Roasted Pecan
Chocolate Butter Roasted Pecan

Sold exclusively at
BLUE MOON GIFT SHOPS
910-799-5793
203 Racine Drive

JAZZ at the MANSION

BellamyMansion.org

A Concert Series May thru September

May 11th - Bangin' Bellamy Sextet featuring Gerald Shynett, Benny Hill, John Crowley, Doug Irving, Jon Hill, Carlos Garcia

June 8th - Jo Gore Quartet

July 13th - Stardust

August 10th - Candida Rose & Mangroove

September 14th - Darryl Murrill & Jazzpel

Thank you to our loyal patrons for their continued support of this series.

Pick up your copy of

Salt
MAGAZINE

at these fine distribution points:

Airlie Gardens
Arts Council of Wilmington
Blockade Runner Beach Resort
Blue Moon Gift Shops
Brunswick Forest Sales Center
Bryant Real Estate
Cameron Art Museum
Cape Fear Museum
Casey's Buffet
Cast Iron Kitchen
Causeway Cafe
CFCC Library
Chop's Deli
City Market
Cotton Exchange
Crabby Chic
DeBruhl's
Figure Eight HOA
First Bank Branches
First South Bank
Food Lion Stores
The Forum
Hampton Inns
Harris Teeter Stores
Hilton Garden Inn
Hilton Riverside
Holiday Inn Resort – Wrightsville Beach
Homewood Suites
Intracoastal Realty
Java Dog
Jimbo's
Johnny Mercer's Pier
Lovey's Market
Lumina Station
Pomegranate Books
Port City Java Cafes
Protocol
Residence Inn Wilmington Landfall
Salt Works
Shell Island Resort
Station One
Sweet n Savory Cafe
Thalian Hall
The Ivy Cottage
The Shop at Seagate
Two Sisters Bookery
Thrill of the Hunt
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Wilmington Visitor's Bureau
Wrightsville Beach Museum

BROOKLYN ARTS CENTER at ST. ANDREWS

THE SPRING
Fling
AT BAC

FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY
June 16 • June 17 • June 18

Vintage • Retro • Upcycled • Fabulous

SHOP WITH DOZENS OF THE REGION'S FINEST VINTAGE VENDORS
FRI: 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. | SAT: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | SUN: 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

ADMISSION: $5 for 3 DAYS
INCLUDES A RAFFLE TICKET
KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE

BROOKLYN ARTS CENTER AT ST. ANDREWS | 516 NORTH 4TH STREET | WILMINGTON, NC 28401
(910) 538-2939 | WWW.BROOKLYNARTSNC.COM | VENDOR INFO: Contact Rebecca@BrooklynArtsNC.com

Wilmington Art Association

Where Art and Ideas Meet!

The Premier Visual Arts Organization of the Cape Fear Coast

Get ready for the Annual *Art in the Arboretum* coming this Fall!

Information coming soon with a CALL for Artists, visit: wilmingtonart.org

- Annual Juried Spring Show and Sale
- Workshops Led by Award-Winning Instructors
- Exhibit Opportunities & Member Discounts
- Monthly Member Meetings
- Socials, Field Trips, Paint-Outs
- Lectures and Demonstrations and more!

Membership is open to artists & art lovers alike

Join Today & Support Local Art
www.wilmingtonart.org

Port City People

Azalea Belles of the Garden Tour

Saturday-Sunday, April 8-9, 2017

Photographs by Bill Ritenour

DINING GUIDE

CAPE FEAR SPICE MERCHANTS
SPICES · TEAS · GIFTS

ALWAYS FRESH

THE AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF LOOSE LEAF TEAS & SPICES

Featuring California Olive Oils & Vinegars

Located at 20 Market Street, Downtown Wilmington

(910) 772-2980

THE ER PUB
ENJOY & RELAX WITH GOOD FRIENDS
2238 South 17th Street - Wilmington, NC
Open Monday-Saturday 7am-Midnight

RED OAK · BALLAST POINT · SWEETWATER · BELL'S · Wicked Weed · Dogfish Head

Our Crêpes & More ...

HOMEMADE FRENCH SWEET AND SAVORY CRÊPES

Delicious Vegan, Dairy-Free and Gluten-Free Crêpes Available

TUES-FRI: 7 AM - 3 PM
SAT: 8 AM - 3 PM
SUN: 8 AM - 2 PM

Located at the Corner of Oleander & 39th St.

910.395.0077 | 3810 OLEANDER DR.

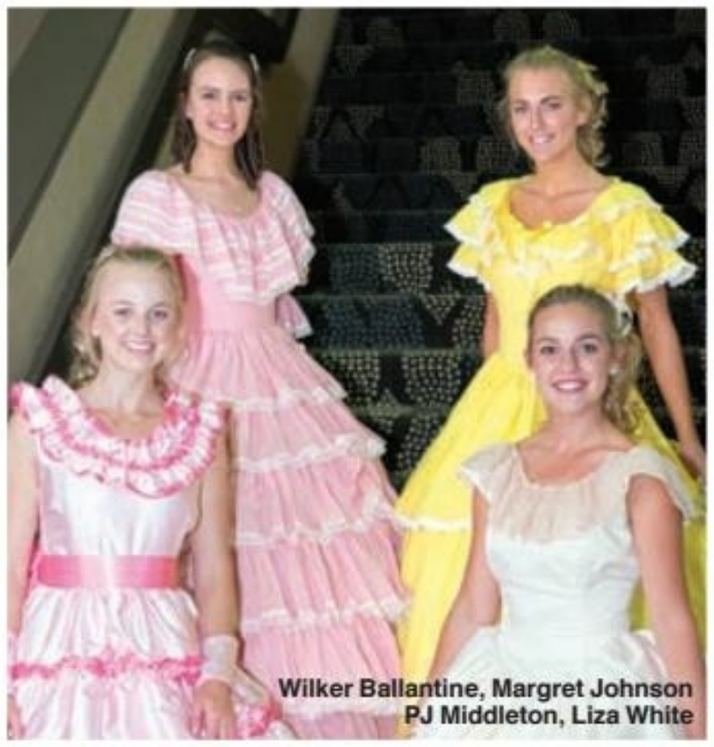
Port City People

Azalea Festival Queen's Coronation
Hilton Wilmington Riverside
Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Photographs by Bill Ritenour

Emma Kohlenberg, Katie Gregory, Miss Teen NC Rice Festival, Azalea Princess Emma Grace Wright, Emilia Torello, Carli Batson

Azalea Queen Kira Kazantsev

Jordyn Wieber (Olympic Gymnast)


Wilker Ballantine, Margret Johnson
PJ Middleton, Liza White

Kaitlyn & Roxann Gore

Cadet Cannon Clark, McKenzie Faggart (Miss NC 2016), Cadet Chad Jacob
Taylor Bridges, Lauren Walsh

Emily Loftiss

Traci & Bailey Smith

Alison Fowler, Averes Bell

Sammie McGee, Illianna Hill

Cambri & Tory Lankas

Samantha Straka

Sean Ruttkay

Port City People

Teeing off with Jim Dodson

Book launch of *The Range Bucket List*

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Photographs by Bill Ritenour

David Woronoff (Publisher for Salt magazine), Mac Everett (Wells Fargo Championship Executive Chairman), Jim Dodson (Best Selling Author and Salt magazine Editor)

Jennifer Roben, Lauren Smith

Alicia & Jeff James

Trent Reed, Mariah Chamberlin, Philip Andrews

Rob Dillow, Mary Margaret McEachern

Travis Lloyd, Kristian Siemon, Melanie Welsh, Peter Sweyer

Kevin Maurer, Ryan Brady, Wiley Cash

David Small, Harold Jacobs

Karen Pennington, Tracy Skrabal

Jud & Amber Watkins

Billy Hirschen, Rich Vena, Jason Wheeler

Liz & Tim Parsons

Elise Mullaney, Mary Ann Beltracchi, Sandy de Holl

Big Gal's Boutique
Plus Size ReSale
910.350.8121
4007 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403
910.794.5636
833 S Kerr Ave
Wilmington, NC 28403
CASH • TRADE • CONSIGNMENT
Dress Like a Million Without Spending a Fortune!

MAKING CONCRETE FURNITURE...
Sexy
fusion by design
bluewater surfaces
MARBLE I QUARTZ I ENGINEERED CONCRETE
SOAPSTONE COUNTERTOPS I FURNITURE
910-233-9629 I www.bluewatersurfaces.com

North Carolina
BLUEBERRY
FESTIVAL
JUNE 16 & 17, 2017
TOUR DE BLUEBERRY • 5K RUN/WALK
SHAG CONTEST • CRAFT & FOOD VENDORS
CAR SHOW • KIDS ACTIVITIES • BLUEBERRY VENDORS
FRIDAY
BEER, BBQ & LIVE MUSIC!
GATES OPEN AT 5 PM
FANTASTIC SHAKERS: 7-10 PM
SATURDAY
ALL DAY ENTERTAINMENT
9 AM -10 PM
1 - 3 BAND OF OZ
4:30 - 6 BRYAN MAYER
7 - 10 KEN KNOX & CO
COURTHOUSE SQUARE | HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BURGAW, NC | EXIT 398 OFF I-40 | 910.259.2007

Re Sale by the Sea
&
Painted Furniture, Household Items, Antiques & More
We pay cash for used furniture!
5941-E Carolina Beach Rd. | 910.200.5400
Mon-Sat: 10:30am-5pm
Clutter No More
Consignment & Resale Shop
2875 Carolina Beach Road
Wilmington, NC 28412
910-395-5209
peacefulexistence7@gmail.com

Sunroom Studio
A Friendly Sunny Art Space
Art classes in drawing, painting and more for all ages and learning levels
www.free-online-art-classes.com
(click on Wilmington Art Classes)
Call 910.547.8115 | lois.dewitt@gmail.com

Tracy McCullen
D•E•S•I•G•N
Luxury Outdoor Living
DESIGN & CONSULTATION
www.landscapesunique.com
(910) 279-1902

Fairy Circle
Consignment Clothing
Banana Republic
Tory Burch
Lilly Pulitzer
Coach
Michael Kors
Ann Taylor Loft
1045 S. College Rd
www.fairycircleconsignment.com

Stay social with
Salt
@saltmagazinenc
@saltmagazineofwilmington

Salt
Services

Double Vision

There's never a dull moment when Gemini is in the house

By Astrid Stellanova

Donald Trump, Kanye West, Marilyn Monroe, John F. Kennedy, Prince, Joan Rivers, Johnny Depp, Anderson Cooper, Morgan Freeman, Nicole Kidman. What do these famous names have in common besides fame? First and foremost, their sun sign, Gemini. Star children, just try and imagine these Geminis in the same room. If the universe doesn't have a sense of humor, then pray tell, what is at work here?—Ad Astra, Astrid

Gemini (May 21–June 20)
Warm to your gal pals, challenging to your male pals, heck — challenging period. That is what everyone knows runs deep inside your Gemini spirit. You have backbone, which is true. That back can get up, too, when someone gives you grief. You are many things, but never dull. This birthday may wind up being one of your favorites, because you have command of a stage and a chance to vent your anger. You've been as hopped up as a mule chewin' on bumblebees over a friend's actions. They want to make up. Let them. Show them your generosity can be as deep as your considerable wounded pride.

Cancer (June 21–July 22)
You uncovered something you didn't much like. Things went catawampus when someone you trusted was caught lyin' like a no-legged dog! It will make you more cautious, which is a good thing. Now, watch how they prove themselves in the future. Translation: Time for them to actually prove themselves to you, and for you to insist upon it.

Leo (July 23–August 22)
You face a challenge and tend to rely upon an old ally. The problem is, your ally is so dumb, they could throw themselves on the ground and miss it. They just don't understand the consequences of their lack of judgment. You, Child, *do*. Give them your guidance, and if they fail, show them how to hit the ground and roll.

Virgo (August 23–September 22)
Well, Sugar, you sure put the right person in charge of handling the money. He squeezes a quarter so tight the eagle screams. Thanks to reforming your once thoughtless money sense, you can afford a splurge. Take the opportunity to let loose and be generous with yourself. Also, let loose in another way that's completely free — smile!

Libra (September 23–October 22)
Someone in authority is making you half-crazy. Time is here, Sweet Thing, for you to draw a hard red line with this person and stop the crazy-making. Don't let them pee on your leg and tell you it's raining! By the end of June, you will discover something you dug up. This hard digging may lead you to a much bigger discovery.

Scorpio (October 23–November 21)
Needlepoint this onto a pillow: "Excuses are like behinds. Everybody's got one and they all stink." There was a time when you didn't take time to offer up excuses. That is your truer self. When you own up to your role in a stinky situation, you can turn it around and find release. Truth works better than Odor-Eaters.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21)
You weren't wrong. We just misunderstood what you figured out way ahead of the rest of us. Well, slap my head and call me silly! Now that you have all the information, calculate what it will take to buy yourself a pack of nabs and an orange soda, then call your broker. Your hunches are right on the money.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19)
Darling, there's a Southern riddle that goes like this: Is a pig's rump made of pork? Well, Honey Bunny, that's rhetorical. There is no answer, because the answer is obvious. Now something just as obvious is staring you right in the face. Turn this moment into what you need to march forward and onward and make barbecue.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18)
She's so pretty she could make a hound dog smile. He's so pretty he could make it smile again. That's said of you and your circle of good-lookin' Aquarian friends. You've taken your kindnesses into your personality in such a big way that you wear it on your fine faces. You make every one of your circle glad to be in your orbit.

Pisces (February 19–March 20)
There's a very sweet someone who wants to hitch a ride on your happy train because he senses you have a good sense of direction. If leather were brains, he wouldn't have enough to saddle a June bug. All that said, you may feel a sense of loyalty to him just because he is polite and says "please" and "thank you."

Aries (March 21–April 19)
Lately, you have pretty much said "yes" to everything. Sugar Pie, if promises were persimmons, the possums could eat good at your place. This is a reality check for you. If you don't face up to the music, you could wind up in the orchestra with a baton in your hand and no musicians. Stop all the mania and drop the baton long enough to direct your own life.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)
Deep in the South, where sushi is still called bait, you have been doing some things nobody around you quite understands. You have been going a little overboard with your need to make a big impression. Like, for example, buying a mystery box at the auction when the rent was due. Take the auction paddle out of the air.

For years, Astrid Stellanova owned and operated Curl Up and Dye Beauty Salon in the boondocks of North Carolina until arthritic fingers and her popular astrological readings provoked a new career path.

Dog Days Ahead

Ruff language from the monthly rescue dog meeting

By Clyde Edgerton

Following is a transcript of a recent rescue dog monthly meeting at a local pound:

Dog 1, the Moderator: Good afternoon. My name is Dusty. I'm a Mix. As you have been informed, we are meeting to go over some of the characteristics of rescue families. As you know, if you are not rescued this month then —

Dog 2: Please don't go into that.

OK. But please be aware that you may be rescued by a Conservative, a Liberal, a Mix, or a Hermit. You should be able to recognize either, so that you can pick the rescue family that will be a good fit for you. That's the purpose of our meeting — recognition. Please interrupt at any time with questions, by the way.

Dog 2: What's a Mix?

Someone who is both a Conservative and a Liberal.

Dog 3: Impossible

Dog 4: No, it's not.

Dog 2: What's a Conservative?

Someone who listens to Fox News on their SirrusXM Satellite car radio.

Dog 2: What's a Liberal?

Someone who listens to CNN or MSNBC on their SirrusXM Satellite car radio.

Dog 2: How are they different?

I don't want to jump to conclusions, but it may be easier to say how they are alike. Judging from the commercials on those stations, they all likely owe $10,000 in back taxes or they are over $10,000 in credit card debt or they snore a lot, or are dysfunctional in some other way. It's like they are all criminals. And, as with all humans these days, they are owned by somebody — or something — they may not recognize. And neither group will feed you chicken bones. But, as to their differences, I can tell you that —

Dog 2: What's a Hermit?

A loner.

Dog 3: Why would a Hermit want a dog?

Don't know. They probably wouldn't. Right. So scratch that category.

Dog 4: Just wondering — can a woman be a Hermit?

Of course. Why would you think otherwise?

Dog 5: What's a woman?

Come on, y'all — you were supposed to do your homework. A woman is person who will most likely be feeding you once you rescue a family. Now, please hold off on the questions and let me just clarify a few things.

Dog 4: But what's a man, then?

Dog 5: Do you mean a person who identifies as a man?

Dog 4: You must be a Liberal. Nanny nanny boo boo.

Dog 5: You must be a Conservative. Nanny nanny boo boo.

Hold on, hold on. Please don't jump to conclusions. You are dogs, remember. You serve Conservatives, Liberals and Mixes. We rescue so that we can provide entertainment and company to rescue families, regardless of their political outlook. We must all —

Dog 6: I've been around the block a few times. Peed on a lot of fire hydrants. And I can tell you this: You want to rescue people who are kind to dogs. I rescued a Conservative family twice and a Liberal family twice. I learned that kindness is unpredictable. What you need is somebody who will squat down, look you in the eye, and talk to you. Gently. Who will give you food, shelter, and love. And if you are a Mix, like all of us here, then you —

Dog 7: I'm a pure breed. Dalmatian, as a matter of fact.

Dogs 2 – 23: Oh my goodness.

What the hell are you doing here?

My Lord.

For Heaven's sake!

Overbred. Overbred. Overbred.

Nanny nanny boo boo.

Liar.

Dummy.

Softy.

Calm down. Listen up. Let's not jump to conclusions. I believe there may be more than one pure breed among us. Or that could be what we call a "social construct." Please understand that we are all in this together. More than likely each of you will find a family match — even pure-breed-Dalmatian-Dog 7. I understand Dalmatians are high-strung and perhaps you, Dog 7, will find a comfortable match . . . say, a vegetarian family. And listen, everybody, if a family doesn't work out, simply bring them back and we will send them over for feline therapy. Believe me, they will come crawling back.

Clyde Edgerton is the author of 10 novels, a memoir and most recently, Papadaddy's Book for New Fathers. *He is the Thomas S. Kenan III Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at UNCW.*

ILLUSTRATION BY HARRY BLAIR

There are Beaches
Then there is Figure Eight Island

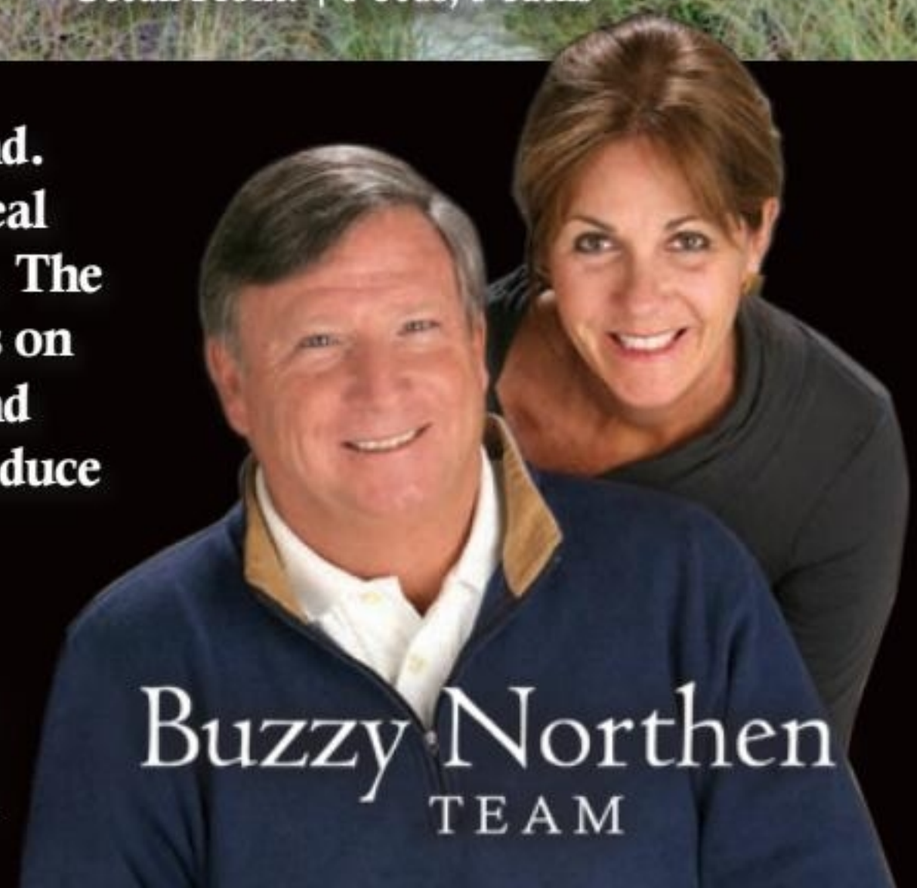
168 Beach Road South | $2,299,000
Ocean Front! | 6 Beds, 5 Baths

88 Beach Road South | $2,175,000
Ocean Front! | 5 Beds, 4 Baths

Beach Road North | $4,999,950
Ocean Front! | 5 beds, 5 full, and 2 half baths

146 Beach Road South | $2,495,000
Ocean Front! | 5 beds, 5 baths

Figure Eight Island is the best kept secret on the East Coast ! With over 5 miles of private, unspoiled beaches, Figure Eight is truly unique.
There are less than 500 homes on the Island, surrounded by pristine waters, beaches and marshland. Buzzy and Ellen are the top real estate agents on Figure Eight. The Northen's have been residents on the Island for over 30 years and would like to personally introduce you to Figure 8 Island!



Intracoastal REALTY CORPORATION
Experience the Exceptional

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

910-520-0990
www.BuzzyRealEstate.com

YOUR HOME SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOU. WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN.

Your home is a reflection of you. Ferguson's product experts are here to listen to every detail of your vision, and we'll work alongside you and your designer, builder or remodeler to bring it to life. Our product experts will help you find the perfect products from the finest bath, kitchen and lighting brands in the world. Request an appointment with your own personal Ferguson product expert and let us discover the possibilities for your next project.

Visit FergusonShowrooms.com to get started.

FERGUSON®
Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery

WILMINGTON
1925 DAWSON ST.
(910) 343–0334

©2017 Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. 0317 427471

FergusonShowrooms.com